

Executive and General Committee of the Association with the advice of this well-known firm.

The Central Governing Board is in Johannesburg, and the Executive Committee, which is representative of all Branches (ten in number) who are elected by ballot.

Monthly meetings are held by all Branches, to transact business and receive reports, &c. After the business part of the meeting is over, the Branch generally arranges that a paper of educational or professional value shall be read. By this means the public every time are protected, as also the nurses.

Still State Registration by nurses for nurses is not quite a fact yet, the new Medical Bill has a very satisfactory clause for the Registration of nurses which will greatly unify the curriculum of training, and promote a higher standard generally. It was down for its second reading in the House of Assembly on March 21st, but owing to the serious labour unrest on the Rand this has been delayed, but it will undoubtedly be in force this year.

Meantime Registration in the provinces is equal to necessity, for, given all things being equal, when candidates are being chosen for the higher posts, undoubtedly the choice falls on the one registered in South Africa—nurses intending to domicile in South Africa please note this! Hospitals do not issue certificates to nurses until they have passed the Medical Council Examination, when they receive both hospital and the "State" certificate.

To bring about this light of day on our professional nursing in South Africa we are greatly indebted to the medical profession—notably Senator Arnold Watkins, M.D., Dr. Tremble, editor of the *South African Nursing Record*, Dr. H. A. Moffat, D.S.O., surgeon, Cape Town, and many others. These gentlemen have ever been ready to come forward and discuss our prospects with Hospital Matrons and nurses, greatly desiring that we should have self-government and an Examining Board, with Trained Nurses on it.

Owing to the great distances in South Africa it is quickly understood that leading Matrons cannot often meet and exchange views; this will readily tell you why it takes such a long time to accomplish things such as State Registration. Meantime, I venture to say we have our house in order and control, and doubtless the rising generation of nurses will be in time able not only to present their own Bill for Parliament, but seek for an International Syllabus of Training, also reciprocity between the larger and smaller hospitals in the matter of training. There is much of value in both; undoubtedly the would-be private nurse gets more insight into the more minute details of her work at a small hospital which goes for greater comfort to the patient. On the other hand, organisation and wider management are more apparent in a larger institution; so each are of great value in training.

I think only Johannesburg has a Sister Tutor at present. I hope in time all large hospitals may have one. Preliminary Training Schools

are greatly needed; these schools should greatly release the mind for the more practical knowledge by which a Probationer finds herself surrounded on entering hospital, and surely she would have a more comprehensive view of its values had she studied Theory of Surgery and Medical Nursing with Elementary Physiology and Anatomy, previous to entering the wards, and how much more confidence she would have in approaching sick people. Still, I maintain that South Africa possesses excellent Training Schools, and the gentle spirit and the art of nursing flourishes in many nurses in South Africa to-day. King Edward VII Memorial was founded by their Excellencies, Viscount and Viscountess Gladstone, in 1913—a much needed and now greatly appreciated Order, of far-reaching good to all classes of people.

This, Madam President and Ladies, but very inadequately expresses all I would convey to you of our work in South Africa. I greatly regret that our General Secretary of the South African 'Trained Nurses' Association herself could not be present at this meeting.

CONSCIENCE MAKES COWARDS OF US ALL.

We wonder who it was, disturbed by a guilty and timorous conscience, who called the attention of the Serjeant-at-Arms to the following paragraph which appeared in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING; and prompted the following letter. Suspicion is one thing and proof another, so best make no surmises in print. But a straw shows which way the wind blows, and that tyrannical animus has no limits:—

House of Commons,
February 14th, 1923.

MADAM,—My attention has to-day been called to a notice stating that "Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will be in the Lobby of the House of Commons, on Friday, February 16th, at 2.30 p.m., and hopes as many as possible of the Civic and Professional Rights Sub-Committee of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council will meet her there at that hour."

This is to warn you that nothing in the nature of a meeting is allowed to be held in this Lobby, or other similar precincts of the House of Commons, and that the police have orders accordingly.

I am, Madam,
Yours faithfully,
COLIN KEPPEL
(Admiral)
Serjeant-at-Arms.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,
20, Upper Wimpole Street, W. 1.

As we are not the type of person to be intimidated by false information and unnecessary "warnings," we acknowledged Admiral

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