

Municipal or Mission, are not consulted nor their opinions asked. Surely on these Committees and Boards the majority of members should be fully trained Nurses who have practical experience in the training of probationers, and the minority members of the medical profession and lay people. It is an insult to the Nursing profession, but it is brought about largely through our lack of unity and active working for Nursing throughout the whole of India.

Many individual training schools have obtained a high standard of Nursing, but they are isolated one from another, and are, therefore, unable to advance the cause of registration for which unity is essential. Locally there are organisations, and also for both North and South India there is an United Board of Examiners for Mission and other hospitals. But there has been no linking up, each is independent, and no interchange of ideas has taken place before these were formed.

Some of the Provinces have introduced or are on the point of introducing registration for Nurses. But the same difficulty faces them all when Registration is proposed. There is no recognised Central Body to be consulted by the Provincial Government, who can speak with an authoritative and no uncertain voice.

It rests with us to form this Central Body from amongst ourselves.

Only last year the United Provinces Board of Medical Examinations, in introducing registration, wrote to this Association asking for our Rules *re* Registration, standard and length of training, &c. We should have been able to reply with printed rules, of what we regard as essential for a trained and registrable Nurse. These should not represent the ideas of one province, or one Board of Examiners, but should be the united opinion of Trained Nurses throughout India.

It is a disgrace that Nurses trained in India—such a large part of the Empire—cannot be registered in Great Britain. This is due to our lack of organisation and unity in this country where there is no uniform standard.

Cannot we, the Trained Nurses' Association of India, appoint here at this Conference a Committee representative of all the Provinces, to draw up such a form as I mentioned above. So that we can put strongly before each Provincial Board what should be the minimum standard of training required for a Nurse for Registration.

Many will say, "Oh! but India is so huge, so vast; it is impossible to obtain and work out such a scheme." In reply I would point you to the Nurses' Association of China where such an organisation is in working order. I believe that difficulties of transport, communication, &c., are much greater in China than in India, and yet by the united and public spirited efforts of the trained nurses there all this has been accomplished. Do not, oh! fellow-workers in India, let us lag behind, but so strive to raise and make our standard of training such that it is worthy of recognition throughout the whole Nursing world.

In conclusion I beg leave to place the following resolution before the Conference for its consideration:—

#### RESOLUTION.

"That we, members of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, here assembled in Conference, appoint a Committee consisting of twelve members representative of the following provinces: Bombay, Bengal, Madras, United Provinces, Central Provinces, Central India and Berar, Sind, Punjab and North-West Frontier Provinces, Delhi Province, Rajputana, Bihar and Orissa, Burma, Baluchistan. This Committee to draw up and submit to the Executive Committee of this Association full rules for the length and syllabus of training, examination and registration for Nurses throughout the Indian Empire."

A Sub-Committee to be appointed consisting of three or four members who can easily meet to draft these rules and circulate for comment amongst the members of the Committee.

The rules with amendments, if any, to be submitted to the Executive Committee for sanction and publication.

#### HUMOUR IN PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING.

*School Nurse* (to Mrs. Snooks, whose little boy was diagnosed as "malnutrition" on routine medical inspection): "Do you think you could get Benjamin to take some Virol or cod-liver oil, Mrs. Snooks?"

*Mrs. Snooks*: "Well, now! If 't isn't the first time as anybody have ever found fault in my boy's health. 'E was but two pound born, an' *my* doctor, 'e allus says: 'Mrs. Snooks, ef you wasn't a extraordinary good mother, Benjy'd a-bin in 'is grave long ago.' Now 'e's *only* thin, but 'e's *well*, an' 'e's got it fixed in his mind as 'e's agoin' to be a *jockey*, an' you don't want a 'efty fellah for that!"

Exit nurse.

#### THE MONTHS.

##### MARCH.

Weird month, whereof 'tis often said "Beware"

*Lest* some misfortune enter at your side,  
Temper your storms to such as fleecy fare  
Along the narrow way or down the wide.  
But, March of many weathers, if you *must*  
Roar in fierce gales, see to it that they fling  
High in the air, that peck of whirling dust,  
Worth the whole ransom of a captive King!

#### COMING EVENTS.

*March 3rd.*—Royal British Nurses' Association. Lecture on Venereal Disease by Dr. Sloan Chesser, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., 3 p.m.

*March 5th.*—Literary and Debating Society. Motion: "That there should be equality of the Sexes in the National and Economic Life." 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., 8 p.m.

*March 10th.*—The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Meeting, Prince of Wales' General Hospital, Tottenham, N. 3 p.m.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)