

Miss J. C. Child writes from Rome:—"I have just returned from a visit to Miss Dorothy Snell at the Policlinico Hospital. It is in the Pantheon style of architecture, connected by corridors, and on the ground floor colonnade designs. The wards are long, light, and well ventilated, having 34 beds, large windows with outside and inside shutters. There are no unnecessary ornamentations; lovely mosaic tiled floors, white bedsteads, tiled-topped tables, and a few palms, give the impression of a carefully planned hygienic scheme artistically thought out. The nursing staff looked so like the average Sisters and Nurses in our London Hospitals that I was surprised to find they are chiefly Italian ladies, and very few could speak English; some very pretty, and all very smart, with their uniform well put on. Evidently their Matron is particular as to the wearing of uniform. From my brief insight into the work I should say there is every means at hand for excellent training in all branches of our profession."

### REGISTERED NURSES PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

#### "PRESCRIBED SCHEME OF TRAINING" IN DANGER.

There will be a Meeting of the Executive Committee of the above Council on Friday, March 23rd, at 431, Oxford Street, at 5 p.m. Councillor Beatrice Kent will be in the Chair.

A good attendance is hoped for, as important business will be submitted for consideration.

The attempt of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to deprive the Nurses in training for admission to the General Part of the Register, of the right granted to them by Parliament of a "prescribed training" to qualify for Examination, whilst nurses qualifying for registration on the Supplementary Parts are granted the right, is not only illegal, but illogical, and the present helpless position of probationers in general hospitals and Poor Law Infirmaries, will be considered and action decided upon at the forthcoming Meeting of the R.N.P.C. The new General Nursing Council is overwhelmingly composed of persons whose reactionary policy is to suppress self-government in the Nursing Profession, and this policy must be exposed and opposed with the utmost determination by the free nurses' organisations outside. The position is being clearly recognised by liberal-minded men of all Parties in Parliament. It remains for the nurses to resist oppression, and insist upon the General Nursing Council carrying out the provisions of the Nurses' Registration Act.

### NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. THE ELECTION OF SIXTEEN PERSONS TO BE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

When the Special Scheme for the Election of Direct Representatives of the Nursing Profession, framed by the General Nursing Council under the Nurses' Registration Act, was made public, and considered by the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, there were three main points to which that Council took strong exception.

#### FREE CHOICE OF CANDIDATES.

1. The limitation of choice in the case of the nurses on the General Part of the Register, by the decree that of their eleven representatives six *must* be Matrons of General Hospitals and Infirmaries, while no similar provision was made that any must be nurses. No such restriction was imposed on the nurses on the Supplementary Registers, and it was felt to be both an undemocratic and unfair restriction in the case of the nurses on the General Part of the Register.

#### INSUFFICIENT TIME IN WHICH TO VOTE.

2. The short period of time (seven days) allowed for the return of the voting papers.

#### AUTOCRATIC POWERS OUT OF DATE.

3. The autocratic powers given to the Returning Officer, who is also the Chairman of the Council, under Clause 8 (2).

As the Scheme, after being signed by the Minister of Health, has to be laid before each House of Parliament for twenty-one sitting days before it becomes law, the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council communicated with Major R. W. Barnett, M.P., who, with characteristic kindness, gave notice of motion, in conformity with the provisions of the Act, that an humble Address should be presented to His Majesty praying for the modification of the Scheme in relation to the above and other particulars, including the consequential amendments entailed.

The motion was down for March 8th, but in the meantime the fortunes of the ballot entailed the resignation of the Minister of Health (Sir Arthur Griffiths Boscawen), and it was felt by Major Barnett, and the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, only courteous to the new Minister (Mr. Neville Chamberlain, M.P.) to defer the motion until the last possible day, March 14th, so that he might be consulted.

We reprint from the Official Report (Parliamentary Debates, House of Commons) the full account of the proceedings, and, following the precedent set by Major Barnett, omit the amendments in detail.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, March 14th, 1923.

#### OFFICIAL REPORT.

Nurses' Registration Act, 1919.

MAJOR BARNETT: I beg to move,  
That an humble Address be presented to His

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