

dishment in 1917 to secure the Royal Charter for this purpose.)

5. That the grant of a Charter would enable the Royal British Nurses' Association to acquire a real if indirect power of controlling the education of the nursing profession. (Why not?)

6. That the Royal British Nurses' Association is not a sufficiently representative body, and that it has not secured sufficient support or achieved sufficient success to enable it to be entrusted with such powers. (The most determined undue influence was used by the managers, and, of course, their matrons of the training schools, to intimidate nurses from joining the Association, a policy which has continued to this day.)

7. That it has not the means of discharging the duties and responsibilities which the Charter would impose upon it.

8. That the establishment at the present time of any register of Nurses would be premature and injurious.

9. That a general register of Nurses is unnecessary.

10. That the other objects for which incorporation is sought can be accomplished without the grant of a Royal Charter.

Comment is superfluous.

The Committee of Inquiry took some time to consider the matter, and finally, on May 16th, 1893, recommended Her Majesty in Council to grant a Royal Charter according to the Draft which they submitted. Her Majesty acceded to the advice of Her Privy Council, and ordered the Charter to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom. This was done on June 6th, 1893, and the historical document constitutes the most precious asset of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and considering how nearly it was abstracted by its most subtle enemies in 1917, we are of opinion that every member of the Association should possess a copy, so that she may realise the prestige it bestows upon her, and what it cost the founders of the Association to obtain it for successive generations of members.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

(To be continued.)

NEPOTISM IN THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

We learn that the appointment of Miss Dora Finch to the "urgent" post of "Secretary to the Registrar," now entitled "Interviewing Officer," evolved for the benefit of Miss Ruth Darbyshire,

and in abeyance since her appointment to University College Hospital, presumably until Miss Finch was ready to accept the sinecure, was even more irregular than we reported in our last issue. It will be remembered that at the last meeting of the Council (shirking its responsibilities as usual) it referred the appointment to the General Purposes Committee, of which Miss Cox-Davies is Chairman, "with power to interview candidates and to appoint a suitable person."

It would now appear that no steps whatever were taken, by advertisement or otherwise, to make this well-paid post known (£5 a week for 37 hours of unskilled work), and that the General Purposes Committee was not formally summoned to consider Miss Finch's single application, but that in a quite irregular manner this hole in a corner job was agreed to by some other little Committee which had no authority to make the appointment at all!

When we realise that the members of the Council who gaily showered this largesse on one of their own close personal friends, were dealing with public money, we wonder just how near to illegal disbursement of funds they ventured! It is an interesting question for the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and we advise him to enquire into the matter.

THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual General Meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses was held on Friday, April 6th, 1923, at the "Plane Tree" Restaurant, Councillor Beatrice Kent presiding.

The President, Chairman, and forty Members of the Council were appointed.

Great sorrow was expressed when it was made known that Miss Margaret Breay had met with a motor accident, and leave was granted by the Meeting to bring forward the following emergency resolution, which was passed unanimously, and the Secretary was instructed to forward it to Miss Breay:—

"The Members of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses desire to convey to Miss Margaret Breay their sincere sympathy for the motor accident she has sustained, and wish her a speedy recovery. They would like to place on record their gratitude for the silent and efficient work of love which she has carried out for Nurses, without remuneration, or even a desire for acknowledgment."

The Members also expressed a wish that some flowers should be sent to her as a slight token of their appreciation. Later, some pink tulips and boughs of beautiful white lilac were dispatched.

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