

face which cheerfully, through bad days as well as good days, spends itself in the service of others—it is, in short, 'The Spirit of the Wards.' ”

Presiding at a Meeting of the Burton Board of Guardians, the Chairman, Alderman F. Thompson, referred to the fact that they and smaller institutions would not be recognised as a training school for nurses by the General Nursing Council. The Burton Infirmary had been under this difficulty, but had surmounted it. The Union Hospital would not be able to grant certificates to their young nurses, and the latter would be under a great disadvantage. He believed some had resigned on that account. His own opinion was that the Poor Law Unions would have to combine and form a Nursing Association of their own and give certificates. As far as he could see it would provide the only solution. At a future meeting he would draft a resolution to the Poor Law Union's Association calling upon them to take up the matter.

The Burton Board of Guardians, even supported by their Poor Law Unions' Association, will not be able to evade the Nurses' Registration Act for any length of time, because probationers will not train in hospitals from which they cannot be registered by the State, and their wisest plan will be to consider methods of affiliation with other Training Schools, so that their probationers may qualify for the State Examination. The Training Schools have for thirty years denied the principle of standardised training and State Examination for their nurses. That narrow attitude was rendered impossible by the passing of the Nurses' Registration Act in 1919. Intelligent women are no longer to be put off with inefficient training and a certificate which carries no statutory rights and status. Poor Law Guardians should cease kicking against the pricks, and confer as to how they are best able to meet modern educational demands, not how to evade them.

The General Nursing Council, as at present constituted, is an ignorant, stupid, and arbitrary body, totally devoid of *finesse*. It is out of sympathy with progress, and is doing nothing to instruct the Nurse Training Schools, Poor Law, and others, how best to meet the demands of educated women desirous to become Registered Nurses. Groaning under an intolerant bureaucracy, no *bêtise* is too reactionary for its policy, and instead of com-

ing into personal touch with the smaller hospitals and infirmaries and helping them over their difficulties, this Council of ignoble autocrats presumes to deny for years to trainees their statutory rights under the Act, hoping by this means to placate employers. The truth is that so long as the G.N.C. is governed by leisured women of title who have no more knowledge of nursing conditions or business than bumble bees, autocratic old doctors, and self-interested Matrons in high places, who apparently have the support of the unprofessional bureaucracy in the Ministry of Health, there is little to hope for the benefit of the Nursing Profession or the patients. What is certain is that until just conditions, both educational and economic, prevail in the hospital world, the present shortage of educated women for training will continue. The General Nursing Council had a splendid opportunity. Its present composition, to judge from its futilities, is an insult to Schools and pupils alike.

On behalf of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Algernon Aspinall presented on Tuesday to Princess Mary Viscountess Lascelles, at Chesterfield House, a writing desk made of native mahogany by local craftsmen. Surplus funds collected in the Colony towards the gift are being devoted to providing a gold medal and shield to be presented annually to the trained nurse passing with the highest distinction out of her three years' training at the Colonial Hospital at Port of Spain.

Nurses in military uniform are admitted free to see the State apartments at Windsor Castle, sharing this privilege with sailors and soldiers.

It has been decided by the Council of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association that all trained nurses be privileged to be addressed as Sister.

In private practice the title of Sister is very euphonious, and distinguishes the trained from the domestic nurse, but it cannot without confusion be used in hospital wards, as there is usually only one official with the right to use the title.

Great annoyance was created during the war, and still continues in some institutions, by V.A.D.s arrogating to themselves the title of Sister.

No unregistered nurse should now be qualified to use it.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)