

Uniform? Surely these suggestions are not to be taken seriously!

There remain buttons and Badges. Apparently these alone can be registered. Then the suggestion to enter into a contract with one firm alone for supplying the material, and that without the cost being before the Council is encouraging monopoly and exploitation. Not a word was forthcoming in the Report as to whether British-made or foreign materials were to be used.

British nurses will want to encourage British trade, and whatever firms supply materials should be required to supply home-made goods.

THE BADGE.

The Badge has not been on view, before approval, by the profession. We hope it is not of Brummagem make. We note the Badge approved was submitted by Messrs. Fattorini of Birmingham. The name has apparently little association with Tudor roses, or indeed with British antecedents at all. We think the Council should assure British nurses that their Badge (and the profits thereof) will benefit British workers, and is not of foreign make. With thousands of unemployed in this country it is the duty of the Nursing Profession to support British labour, and we hope the Council will satisfy us on this point.

And how about the "Equality of the Sexes Act"? We note male nurses are to be permitted to wear the Badge with mufti, because they do not wear outdoor uniform, but that female nurses are to be seriously restricted in this connection and only to wear the Badge with "authorised" uniform. Why? Thousands of female nurses do not wear outdoor uniform in these days, so why are they to be treated on a different footing to men?

The Act provides that Registered Nurses may wear a "prescribed uniform or Badge." The Council has no power of discrimination in this particular.

And what is an authorised uniform? The only "authorised" uniform with which the General Nursing Council is concerned is the uniform recommended by it, and approved by Parliament. Any privileged treatment for classes of nurses (*à la* Rule 9 (A)), such as Queen's Nurses, Bart.'s, London, Guy's, &c., is out of the question. A Registered Nurse is a Registered Nurse, whatever training she has received, and we must not permit more "privilege." Quite sufficient damage has been done by Rule 9 (A), we need no more injustice to the profession as a whole.

We shall have a few remarks to make next week on the Reports of the Education and General Purposes Committees.

HEALTH UNDER-SECRETARY.

Lord Eustace Percy has been appointed to the new Office of Under-Secretary to the Minister of Health. Let us hope he will have some sympathy with the rank and file of the Nursing Profession, so despitely used by the Health Ministry of late.

THREE NEW DANGERS.

The present General Nursing Council has already proved itself a serious menace to the Nursing Profession—governed as it is by a medical and lay oligarchy supported by the nominees of the College of Nursing, Ltd., who can and do outvote the minority—the free nurses' representatives. We need only mention the determined attempt, supported by the Ministry of Health, to deprive probationers of their right to a "prescribed training," as provided in the Nurses' Registration Act, without which there can be no compulsory standard of nursing education to qualify for a standard one-portal examination before Registration.

New Danger No. 1.

TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION.

As reported, the Council has agreed to the recommendation of the Education Committee to appoint what is called an Examinations Officer for making arrangements all over the country for the State Examinations to be held, beginning a year hence. This officer to have an office at Headquarters.

Of all positions this "plum" should be reserved for a Registered Nurse; first, because no one but a professional woman is qualified to fill it; and secondly, because with a salary of £375 and expenses it will cost the Registered Nurses £700 a year at least.

Now, let us a tale unfold. Before ever the proposal to make this new lucrative post came up for consideration at the Education Committee, the matter had been discussed outside with the Chairman of the Council, and Sir E. Cooper Perry, Hon. Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., had a lay candidate ready to step in and grasp this important and lucrative professional appointment, who, as far as we know, has never spent an hour in a hospital in her life, and who is totally ignorant of even the nomenclature of Nursing Education. This clerical worker is, we believe, to be one of the few candidates recommended to the Council for appointment, and if this gross job is approved by it, we hope the Profession will not permit it to go by default, as quite a number of excellent, highly-trained, experienced Registered Nurses have applied for the position, and we believe have been turned down.

There was an old adage that "he who paid the piper called the tune," but evidently "taxation without representation" is the motto of the new General Nursing Council.

New Danger No. 2.

WHAT IS GOOD CHARACTER?

Some two years ago the Central Midwives Board decided to refuse to admit a lady to examination "at any time," which proves the seriousness of the "misdemeanour" of which the candidate was guilty.

The penalty for the "misdemeanour," according to the Midwives Act, on conviction, made the

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