

It is to be regretted that approved societies in Liverpool have not made the fullest use of the facilities provided by the Liverpool nursing service for insured persons, undertaken by the Queen Victoria District Nursing Association, in conjunction with the other local associations.

During the year the number of insured persons and their dependents receiving nursing was 47, the visits paid by nurses numbering 716. The capitation fee payable by societies is 2d. per member.

The Nursing Association not only provides the services of a nurse, but is able to supply the necessary nursing appliances and requisites.

We wonder what the highly educated and well-disciplined women who compose the Nursing Profession in the United States will think of Lady Cowdray's crude deductions, formed after a visit to a few hospitals in America. According to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, Lady Cowdray is of opinion that "Our English nurses stand high in the estimation of the Americans, who, she believes, would welcome an arrangement by which some thousand or so of English nurses could be scattered about the States to inspire the high standard of discipline, service, and efficiency which are present in our hospitals."

Shades of Robb, Dock, Nutting, and Maxwell. We wonder what the Nursing World would be to-day without your inspired teaching and lifelong example of all that is fine and dignified in the care of the sick.

THE REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

The following urgent Petition to Members of Parliament was issued from the Office of the Council on Tuesday:—

Nurses' Registration Act, 1919.

Members of this Council earnestly petition you to support Major Barnett in his opposition to the new Rule, framed by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales—Rule 9 (1) (g)—when he moves, on *Wednesday, June 13th*, that this Rule may be annulled.

The new Rule throws the General Part of the State Register of Nurses open to women without any hospital training whatever, only one month before the expiration of the period of grace, and constitutes a grave breach of contract with the 25,000 nurses who, during the past two years, have applied and paid for Registration under the Statutory Rules now in force.

MARGARET BREAY, S.R.N.,
Hon. Secretary.

NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE GREAT BETRAYAL.

On July 14th, 1921, after twelve months' careful consideration the Statutory Rules for the Registration of Nurses under the Nurses' Registration Act were signed by the then Minister of Health—laid upon the table of the Houses of Parliament, and came into operation. The General Nursing Council to conform to the Act had to regulate the conditions of admission to the Register, enabling Existing Nurses for a period of two years to make application under conditions which appeared to the Council to be satisfactory, who had "adequate knowledge and experience of the nursing of the sick."

The Council in framing the Rules, of course, admitted trained nurses holding a three years' certificate—the standard in force for thirty years past—and as a minimum qualification, required that twelve months' training in a general hospital or Poor Law infirmary (a very low standard) with two years' further experience in nursing, should admit women of good character to the General Part of the Register—and under this contract some 25,000 nurses applied and formed the Register.

The Statutory Rules were printed and circulated, and for two years nurses were admitted to the Register without further comment. Then the College of Nursing, Ltd.—which carefully excludes untrained nurses from its rival voluntary Register—began an agitation to depreciate the standard for admission to the State Register, and by its usual circuitous methods raised a cry that the "old" nurses were being unjustly treated. By the "old" nurses the College really agitated for admission to the Register of *all the totally untrained women who had been exploiting the public as trained nurses for the past forty years.*

As soon as through the application of the preferential Rule 9 (A) the electorate was flooded with College members—and the College nominees had thus been elected to form the new Council—it agreed to a new Rule recommended by the Registration Committee, of which Dr. E. W. Goodall was Chairman, in the following terms:—

"Rule 9 1 (g).—In the case of a nurse who was at 1st November, 1919, engaged in actual practice, and who was also bona fide engaged in nursing prior to 1st January, 1900, and who does not comply with the above requirements, such special evidence of knowledge and experience as may be accepted by the Council in each individual case."

This Rule was signed by Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the new (and, so far as nursing is concerned, necessarily ignorant) Minister of Health. It now lies on the Table of the Houses of Parliament—together with the following amendments—and is being considered as we go to press.

But the most sinister outcome of College policy was the opportunity it afforded the Parliamentary Medical Committee—composed of medical M.P.s—to still further depreciate our standards. With that extraordinary lack of sympathy with higher education and professional status for

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