

trained nurses, (which the medical profession enjoy in so marked a degree themselves); this Committee at once seized upon the opportunity to propose, without consulting the Nurses' Organisations, drastic amendments to Rule 9 (g), which amount to a gross breach of contract and of good faith with the nurses who have paid some £25,000 under the present Statutory Rules to form the Register.

Later the Parliamentary Medical Committee received deputations from the College in support of Rule 9 (i) (g), and from the Royal British Nurses' Association in strong opposition to breaking faith with the Registered Nurses, also from the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council and the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, objecting to Rule 9 (i) (g), for sound reasons of equity and justice.

#### Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day for Wednesday, June 13th, contained notice of the following amendments to the present Statutory Rules:—

#### AMENDMENT No. 1.

Dr. Chapple (Lib., Dumfries), Dr. A. Salter (Lab., Bermondsey), Dr. J. H. Williams (Lab., Llanelly), Sir John Collie (N.L., Partick, Glasgow), and Dr. T. Watts (U., Withington): That Rule 9 (i) should be modified by inserting at the end of paragraph (g) the following new paragraph—

Or (h)—

(a) A certificate of good character;

(b) a certificate signed by a matron of a general hospital or an infirmary, or by two medical men setting out that the applicant has been in attendance upon the sick in the capacity of a nurse for a period of not less than three years prior to the 1st November, 1919; and

(c) a certificate signed by a registered nurse or by two medical men, one of whom shall be on the staff of a general hospital, setting out that the applicant has adequate knowledge and experience of medical and surgical nursing, and is competent to attend upon the sick in the capacity of a nurse.

Provided that the Council may require the applicant, as a condition precedent to registration, to present herself for special inquiry as to competency, and fitness before a medical officer, or officers, appointed by the Council.

If agreed these amendments provide (1) that women without any hospital training or experience whatever shall be eligible for registration on the General part of the Register, upon the recommendation of one Matron or two medical men (it is significant that medical women don't count), and (2) constitutes medical officers experts in the examination in Practical Nursing, an art in which the majority are by no means expert or qualified to judge. The principle here involved is that the technique of nursing does not exist, and that Practical Nursing, as apart from the theory upon which it is based, and is systematically taught by Nursing experts, is entirely ignored. This attitude upon the part of the six medical practitioners who support the amendments proves an entire misconception of

trained nursing as qualifying for registration at the present time, and assumes an absolute control of Nursing by Medicine to which it has no right whatever, under either the Medical or Nursing Acts.

#### AMENDMENT No. 2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Fremantle (U., St. Albans) has placed the following amendment on the Paper:—

Nurses' Registration Act, 1919.—That the year 1910 be substituted for the year 1900, so as to read:—

After Rule 9 (i) (j) insert:—

(g) In the case of a nurse who was at the 1st November, 1919, engaged in actual practice, and who was also bona fide engaged in nursing prior to 1st January, 1910, 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.

The result of this amendment would be to add ten years, from 1900 to 1910, in which totally untrained women will be eligible for Registration. Thus, although a three years' training, examination, and certification have been in force for thirty years, women who have shirked training and instruction up until thirteen years ago are to be granted registration on the complete Register—with title of "Registered Nurse," a dangerous imposition on an ignorant public—and giving such women preference over highly-qualified specialists, who are compelled to place their names on the Supplementary Registers. Colonel Fremantle's amendment is in effect a premium upon inefficiency—and places highly-qualified specialists in dangerous inferiority economically to women with *no training at all*.

#### AMENDMENT No. 3.

We turn to Major Barnett's action in reference to this disastrous proposition with relief—if not with hope.

Major Barnett will move: "That a humble Address be presented to His Majesty praying that the proposed amendment to Rule 9 of the Rules under Section 3 of this Act by the addition of paragraph (i) g may be annulled."

In other words, that the grave breach of contract with the 25,000 nurses who have applied for and paid for Registration under the existing Statutory Rules—one month before the termination of the period of grace—may not be agreed to by Parliament. An honourable and statesmanlike policy, uninfluenced by professional intolerance upon the part of medical men—and the economic pressure of employers through the College of Nursing, Ltd.

#### HELP FOR THE [CANCER CAMPAIGN.

The King has contributed £100 and the Queen £50 to the appeal for the British Empire Cancer Campaign.

A gift of £20,000 from a donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, towards the expenses of the campaign, has also been received.

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