

To quote the Dentists' and Midwives' Acts is superfluous. Both these Acts are compulsory; the Nurses' Act is not. Dentists and midwives can be prosecuted if they, unregistered, practice as such. Unregistered women may nurse the sick so long as they do not delude them by using the title of "Registered Nurse"; so there is no hardship, so long as these sick attendants are honest and do not assume knowledge and status to which they have no right. The only person who is apparently of a negligible quantity is the honourable woman, who has given at least three years' work in our nursing schools at high pressure for pettifogging pay, to qualify herself as a safe, skilled, invaluable nurse of the sick.

It is time the sick waked up to the present dangerous and indefensible position in which they are placed by those private nursing home proprietors, supported by medical practitioners, who endanger their recovery, if not their lives, by unskilled service.

Let our highly capable nurses stand for the safety of the sick.

COLLEGE CENTRES INVITED TO PASS RESOLUTIONS WITHOUT SEEING THE RULES.

We have objected in Council and outside it to the unjustifiable interference by the Managers of the College of Nursing, Ltd., as personified by Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman, and Sir E. Cooper Perry, Hon. Secretary, with the Statutory duties of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and it may interest our readers to realise the methods employed.

Let us take first the constitution of the "prescribed scheme," which, in the Schedule to the Act, makes compulsory for the Constitution of the Council, the election of sixteen direct nurse representatives.

In drafting the Scheme the Registration Committee recommended that six seats should be secured to Matrons of Training Schools, and five seats to nurses, and it was agreed in Council that Matrons should not be eligible for Nurses' seats.

This provision cut out Miss Swiss, a nominee of the College of Nursing, Ltd., for a Nurse's seat on the new Council, because she had been a Matron, a decision which evidently caused her much perturbation. Immediately the College powers were approached, with the result that the provision was vetoed at the Ministry, and *altered in print in the Schedule* placed before the next meeting of the G.N.C., who were told it was too late to consider and alter it. Thus, Miss Swiss is now eligible for election, although she is no longer engaged in the Public Health Service as a Municipal Nurse, and is now running a proprietary Children's Home at Bexhill.

Another instance of interference. It will be remembered that in July the Council approved a very guarded Rule to meet "hard cases"; such,

for instance, as that of Dame Sidney Browne, President of the College of Nursing, Ltd., who, with less than a year's training in the past, rose to be Matron-in-Chief Q.A.I.M.N.S. This carefully-worded Rule was not approved by the Scottish Council, and the Registration Committee thereupon recommended a very loose Rule, which is the Scottish Rule—21 (3) (d)—but disapproved of and not adopted by the English Council in its Rules framed in 1920, and approved by the Minister of Health in 1921.

Not a word was said at the Council meeting held on December 15th last by Dr. Goodall or the College representatives that before Rule 21 (3) (d) was brought up for discussion at the G.N.C. it had been sent down (without a copy of the present Rules) to the Local Centres of the College of Nursing, Ltd., inviting them to support it and agitate for its acceptance by the Minister of Health! Thus, when the members of the General Nursing Council were given an opportunity *for the first time* of considering their own business, it was already dealt with by a College committee. Who was responsible for this breach of confidence it is not difficult to surmise, when certain persons sit on both bodies. But that such methods of stultifying the work of the General Nursing Council—work with which it is entrusted by Parliament—can be employed, proves our contention, that social influence in the past has played a disastrous part at the Ministry of Health in the conduct of the business of the G.N.C. Imagine such tactics employed in relation to the General Medical Council, or the Central Midwives Board! We imagine the Chairmen of those Statutory Bodies would not tolerate such indefensible wire-pulling for a moment. The Nurses also need a Chairman who has the courage to protect their Governing Body from everlasting dictation and meddlesome interference by the College Company. Local Centres of the College should hear reasons for and against, before taking action on General Nursing Council business, and this they are never permitted to do.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRONS.

Maternity Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.—Miss Agnes I. Russell has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Aberdeen.—Miss M. Husband has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, and the Simpson Memorial Hospital, Edinburgh, and has held the position of Sister at the Hospice, Edinburgh, and of Night Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Dundee, and the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen.

SISTERS.

Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury.—Miss Champion has been appointed Sister. She was trained at the Tunbridge Wells Hospital, and has been Sister at the Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, and at the East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, and served at Cambridge with the Territorial Nursing Service.

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