

the very best of our ability, in framing the Rules, and furthering the best interests of the profession as a whole. Indeed, the Registrationists, who had been invited to help to compose the Council, met and adopted this policy. Tomahawks and hatchets should be buried forthwith, and whilst standing firmly for fundamental principles, a whole-hearted service should be ours. And it was in this spirit of service that we set to work to consider the Constitution, and later to help frame the Rules.

Personally I did not undertake this work as a novice. For thirty years I had worked for this lever—a Nurses' Registration Act—through which to define Nursing Education and place Professional Nursing on a legal basis. I knew what we wanted, and when the Council met—the majority of whom had for so long been in opposition to the principle of State Registration—and others, the lay element, knowing nothing of the question, my recommendations for Standing Committees (the draft for which I have filed, as it may be of interest to future generations of registered nurses "who know not Joseph,") to deal with Finance, Education, Registration, and Discipline, were adopted, and I was elected (quite justly) the Chairman of the Registration Committee. My proposal that Miss Lloyd-Still, the Superintendent of the Nightingale Training School for Nurses, and Matron of St. Thomas Hospital, should be Chairman of the Education Committee, was agreed. Sir Jenner Verrall was elected Chairman of the Finance Committee, and we all set to work apparently in the happiest of veins. The Treasury lent us £5,000, the Ministry of Health an office, a chamber for Council meetings, and a bright girl clerk; and then a wee cloud, no larger than a man's hand, became apparent in our cloudless sky. At our first little interview Mr. Priestley dived his hand in his pocket and drew out a letter. Quite chirpily he said: "I already have here a letter from a young barrister applying for the post of Registrar."

No use beating about the bush, so I said: "That is to be our best-paid post, and should be given to an experienced nurse."

With few dissentients the Council supported this view. A Sub-Committee, of which I was Chairman, was appointed to interview and recommend to the Council three candidates for the post of Registrar. Having selected two candidates—the voting of the Sub-Committee for Miss M. S. Riddell and another lady was equal. My casting vote would have turned the scale. I did not consider it fair to exercise this right. We therefore agreed to send forward the names of four instead of three candidates for the consideration of the Council.

Miss M. S. Riddell was run by the College group for all they were worth. Those of us who preferred that our Council should be free and independent of social "College" pressure from outside, were in favour of Miss G. R. Hale, the Matron of the Elizabeth Garrett-Anderson Hospital, whose genius for administration, discreet and forcible character, and "registration" convictions, were known throughout the profession. At the meeting called to elect the Registrar the

selection of whom might make or mar the conduct of business and usefulness of the Act (as it has done), the College Group, supported by every lay-member present, voted for Miss Riddell, who was elected by a majority of one vote. Thus, for the first time, the representatives of the free nurses' organisations felt the pressure of the lay hoof and realised that *the Registrar had been elected by the lay vote on the Council.*

Until the laity have been deprived of such injurious power in the Governing Body of the great Profession of Nursing, it can never use to the full the dignity of personal responsibility—for the benefit of the community, or command its confidence and respect.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

(To be continued.)

## THE STATE REGISTER OF NURSES.

The 1923 edition of the State Register of Nurses has just been published under the authority of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. It, presumably, includes the names of nurses registered up to, and including, the December Meeting of the G.N.C. in 1922, the highest number registered in each part being respectively:

General Part .. .. .	10,879
Supplementary Parts:	
Male Nurses .. .. .	24
Mental Nurses .. .. .	626
Nurses for Mental Defectives	8
Sick Children's Nurses ..	195
Fever Nurses .. .. .	356
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	1,209
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	1,209
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	12,088

The Registrar would be well advised to at least verify the records of members of the Council in the Register before it goes to press. In the copy before us the certificate printed against the name of Mr. Robert Donaldson has been erased, and the correct entry written in. Last year there was a mistake made in Miss MacCallum's entry.

We notice also that the number allotted to Miss Alice Lowe on the General Part of the Register is 76,570, presumably a "clerk's error," which should have been corrected before the Register went to press.

The table showing the names of the General Nursing Council requires revision as to type.

The titles of the Chairman and the Registrar of the Council are in tiny black type. These important offices should be given prominence, while the name of the Registrar should be greatly reduced in size.

Registered Nurses are to be congratulated that the type and binding are in accordance with one of the suggestions made by us for their benefit during our term of office on the First Council, which was not turned down by the usual majority vote where their interests were concerned.

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