

responsibility in this particular was evidently resented by the Registrar who, presumably, imagined that the complete control of the Register was in her hands, and that Parliament had appointed a Council of twenty-five persons to do her bidding. Thus when a friend on the Council warned me in October, 1921, that certain members of the Council were being "influenced" to, by hook or by crook, have me removed from the Registration Chair, thus leaving bureaucracy in absolute power, I was not surprised.

The first intimation of the coming storm came from the Registrar, when she, one day at the office, informed me: "They think it will be best that the Register should not contain any certificates?"

Who are "they"? I enquired.

Evasively, "Some of the matrons!"

"The Rules require the Nurses to submit their qualifications, including certificates, and they shall not be deprived of them without publicity," said I.

Later an attempt was made, at a meeting, to sweep away the record of certificates on the Register, by a Matron.

As the question was not on the Agenda I had it ruled out of order.

Then Miss Cox-Davies returned to duty after illness, and I heard that as certain St. Thomas' "bosses" had no certificates to record, she was prepared to move to deprive the 30,000 Nurses who had of this record of their efficiency!

The Chairman anticipated a battle royal.

In the meantime I prepared a really interesting "memo" for his information—culled from the evidence of the late Miss Isla Stewart—in the Blue Book on State Registration of Nurses, which proved how exceedingly disadvantageous it had been in the past for St. Thomas' Nurses, having no record of their training and examination, when, after years of service, they left the Hospital. They only possessed "Gratuity Letters" from Mr. Bonham Carter, the Secretary of the Nightingale Fund, enclosing a £2 bonus for good conduct.

But autocracy was rampant. The White Queen in "Alice" was nothing to it. "Off with their heads," cried she. "Sweep away all Certificates," commanded Miss Cox-Davies to a chorus of College colleagues.

This would have meant absolute economic ruin for all the Existing Certificated Nurses, who would appear in the published Register as untrained women—when, in 1924 Nurses Certificated after Examination by the General Nursing Council come into competition with them.

No more cruel act of injustice could have been suggested by vain and unprincipled people against the rank and file of the profession.

It had to be prevented. It was.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

(To be continued.)

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

(Continued from page 334.)

3.—Report of the Education and Examination Committee.

MISS LLOYD STILL, Chairman of the Education and Examination Committee, moved that the Report be received

I. REPORTED—That the Committee has met three times—on October 23rd, October 30th, and November 6th, 1923.

II. REPORTED—That in accordance with Recommendation 11 of Council Meeting on May 18th, referred to Education and Examination Committee for the necessary action to be taken, the following letter has been forwarded to the Matrons of Approved Training Schools:—

Dear Madam,—I am instructed to write to you to express the Council's desire that your Training School will as far as possible, allow Registered Mental Nurses to obtain a two-years' course of training in General Nursing. There is a desire on the part of many Mental Nurses to obtain General Training, and they find few facilities for obtaining it. The Council would be grateful if you would assist in this important matter.

Yours faithfully,

M. S. RIDDELL,
Registrar.

III. CONSIDERED—Draft Rules for admission to the Register after June 30th, 1925, as submitted by Mr. Sydney Pitt, referred to the Education and Examination Committee and Mental Nursing Committee by the Council on October 19th, 1923.

REPORTED—That the Draft Rules for admission to the Register after June 30th, 1925, with the addition of a Rule, previously omitted, as to production of marriage certificate, have been considered by the Education and Examination Committee and Mental Nursing Committee, and forwarded to the Minister of Health for his approval.

Draft Rules for Admission to the Register after June 30th, 1925.

EVIDENCE TO BE FURNISHED.

In the above Rules provision is made that applicants must furnish evidence, on the prescribed form, that they are not less than 21 years of age, of good moral character and conduct, and that they are fit and proper persons to be entered on the Register:

"Every applicant must furnish evidence that the applicant had undergone systematic instruction in the subjects for the time being prescribed by the Council, in a hospital approved by the Council, with regard to the part of the Register to which the applicant seeks admission," and "must pass the examination for the time being prescribed by the Council for the part of the Register to which the applicant seeks admission."

"Any evidence which, under the Rules and Regulations of the Council, it may be necessary for an applicant for admission to any part of the Register to produce, shall be of such nature and

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