

me to subscribe to its provisions. Whether or not I was to be beheaded on Tower Hill if I failed to do so was not notified!

Below, this communiqué appears in all its mediæval arrogance and absurdity.

5, Crown Office Row,
Temple, E.C.

1. Not to speak on platforms against matters coming up for discussion in Council, outside the Council.
2. Not to write about matters in her paper which are coming up for discussion in Council.
3. Not to attack members of the Council in her paper or on platforms who do not agree with her.
4. Not to publish in her paper anything which the Council has resolved shall be eliminated.
5. Not to publish anything in her paper of what the Committees do.
6. Not to attack other papers at the Council's meetings in case they do anything to the injury of the Council.

I resented these false imputations.

I instructed Miss Cattell to inform Mr. Priestley that I would only discuss the matter in Council, and that I refused to consider his irregular communication, or to be "gagged" in any way.

A few days later I was 'phoned from the Ministry of Health, inviting me at the Minister's request to see the First Secretary, Sir Arthur Robinson. This I consented to do. More anon.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

(To be continued.)

THE REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

The following letter has been addressed to the Chairman of the London County Council, and a copy sent to the Chairman of the Mental Hospitals Committee of the L.C.C., by the above Council, on the State Examination of Mental Nurses.

To H. C. Gooch, Esq., Chairman, London County Council.

SIR,—The attention of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, an Association of Nurses all of whom are registered under the Nurses Registration Acts, 1919, has been directed to the Report of the Mental Hospitals Committee of the London County Council, adopted at the meeting of the Council on November 20th, in regard to the increments paid to Probationer Nurses on the basis of their passing each of two Examinations (Preliminary and Final), to be held in future by the Medico-Psychological Association—instead of three as heretofore.

From this it would appear that it is the intention of the Medico-Psychological Association (which has done excellent work in the past in standardising the examinations of mental nurses) to continue to conduct and charge fees for these examinations in the future.

My Council, therefore, desires to point out

(1) that the Nurses' Registration Acts, which received the Royal Assent on December 23rd, 1919, under which provision is made for Supplementary Registers of Mental Nurses, conferred upon the General Nursing Councils for England and Wales Scotland and Ireland respectively, the duties of "regulating the conditions of admission to the Registers" to be set up under the authority of these Acts, and of "regulating the conduct of any examinations which may be prescribed as a condition of admission to the Registers"; (2) that the State Examination is the only one which will be of value to nurses in the future, and, therefore the only one which they should be encouraged to pass; and (3) that evidence of having passed this Examination and of registration on a State Register as a Mental Nurse, will presumably be the evidence of proficiency to be required in the future by public authorities engaging Mental Nurses.

Consequently, in the view of the Registered Nurses Parliamentary Council, probationer nurses should not be encouraged by the prospect of an increased scale of pay to enter in the future for the Examination of the Medico-Psychological Association, which is a private body, conferring no legal status upon them.

The first State Examination for Nurses under the authority of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales (which is optional) will be held in July, 1924, and it is the opinion of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council that as soon as State Examinations are established, that conducted by the Medico-Psychological Association should cease.

A parallel case is to be found in that of the London Obstetrical Society, which did good work for many years in conducting an examination for midwives, and its certificate was widely recognised as evidence of efficiency; but, when the Central Midwives Board, set up under State Authority, established its own examinations in 1905, that of the London Obstetrical Society was discontinued.

In a letter addressed by the Minister of Health to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and read at its meeting on November 16th, the Minister referring to the Syllabus of Subjects for the examination of Mental Nurses, and those nursing mental defectives, drew attention, as advised by the Board of Control, to the similarity of the proposed examination with that already conducted by the Medico-Psychological Association. The Minister expressed the view, with which the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council entirely concurs, that "it is undesirable that there should be two bodies holding examinations for mental nurses."

The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council therefore ventures to hope that the London County Council will recognise the value of the State Examination in Mental Nursing by providing that, upon its establishment, evidence of having passed respectively, the Preliminary and the Final Examinations in Mental Nursing, held under the authority of the General Nursing Council for England and

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