

#### THE REGISTERED UNIFORM.

We note that the recommendation of the Uniform Committee that the woven badge be placed on the shoulder strap of the overcoat and on the lapels of the short coat and coat frock, was made to meet the objection of the Registration Office that the uniform submitted was not distinctive enough. This is not surprising. It is most important that the uniform of the Registered Nurses should be distinctive, and that selected is very insignificant, commonplace, and unattractive. We doubt if it will be widely adopted—excepting by "Chapple" protégées—the untrained.

#### REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION COMMITTEE.

The Education and Examination Committee reported that it had considered the Draft Rules for admission to the Register after June 30th, 1925, as submitted by Mr. Sydney Pitt (the Council's solicitor) referred to it by the Council on October 19th, and, with the addition of a Rule previously omitted, as to the production of a marriage certificate, had forwarded them to the Minister of Health for his approval. The Committee did not report that it had made any alteration in the Rules before so doing, and, if so, what these alterations were.

#### THE WAY TO ADDRESS A CABINET MINISTER.

Included in the Draft Rules which were before the Meeting of the Council on November 16th was the draft of a letter to be forwarded to the Minister of Health. We think that the Council instead of approving this letter without comment would have done well to instruct the Registrar that the more formal "Sir" is usual, instead of "Dear Sir," and that "Your obedient servant" should be substituted for "Yours faithfully" when addressing a Minister of the Crown!

#### EXAMINATION IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, AND GYNÆCOLOGY.

The Nurses' Registration Bill, introduced by Major Barnett on March 18th, 1919, drafted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, contained the following Clause: "Nothing contained in this Act, or in any Rules made thereunder, shall confer any authority to practise medicine, surgery, or midwifery, or to undertake the treatment or cure of disease."

This Clause unfortunately was not included in the Government Bill. We were always in favour of it, and we think events have proved its wisdom.

We note that in the scheme for the State Examinations provision is made in the Final Examination for written questions in medicine, surgery, and gynæcology, to be marked by Medical Examiners, who will also conduct an oral examination of twenty minutes' duration in these subjects, as apart from an examination, both oral and practical, in nursing, by nurse-examiners, of half-an-hour's duration.

Presumably, therefore, the certificate awarded to successful candidates will testify that they

have been examined in medicine, surgery, and gynæcology, and have satisfied the examiners in these subjects. Such terms are certainly inadvisable, not to say entirely erroneous.

We commend this point to the attention of the General Medical Council. It might and should take strong exception to any such description and claim.

#### THE ASYLUM WORKERS' UNION AND THE G.N.C.

The National Asylum Workers' Union have protested to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales against the future charge of £7 7s. for Examination and Registration, and "at the extraordinary and deplorable delay in the issue of Certificates and Badges."

As six months is apparently quite an average time for nurses to wait before their applications for registration reach the Council—the A.W.U. must remember that the Registrar was given absolute power as to the recommendation of applications which, in her opinion, "conformed to the Rules," without the supervision of the Registration Committee—thus, presumably, this official finds some difficulty in exercising the excessive powers obtained by her under the Cox-Davies' "recommendation," 1922, and applications are held up for months.

Also Certificates empowering Registered Nurses to practise as such are now signed by two medical men, instead of by Registered Nurses—power medical practitioners have never possessed outside the Nurses' Governing Body. This abuse again was made possible by the proposal of Miss Cox-Davies to place Dr. Goodall, instead of a Registered Nurse, in the Chair of the Registration Committee, thus depriving the Profession of Nursing of rightful power and prestige.

Registered Nurses, with few exceptions, have weakly submitted to these degrading arrangements, so they have themselves largely to blame. They may plead ignorance—there again they are in fault in accepting as Gospel misleading and futile stuff, served out to them through unprofessional publications financed by their employers. Until Registered Nurses realise that it is their *duty* to govern their own profession and arouse themselves to exercise that duty, they will be treated with the contempt they deserve.

#### COLLEGE IDEALS.

In our issue of November 10th, under the above heading, we drew attention to the appeal for volunteers made at a meeting of the London Centre of the College of Nursing, Ltd.—Miss Ruth Darbyshire, R.R.C. (Matron of University College Hospital), being in the chair—to sell the "Poppy Song" in the cinemas, on Wednesday, October 31st, and Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, November 1st, 2nd and 3rd, the inducement

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