

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
THE NURSING RECORD

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No. 1,865.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1923.

Vol. LXXI

## EDITORIAL.

### IMPORTANT EVENTS IN 1923.

During the past year the Nursing Profession in this country has suffered an irreparable loss by the death of Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, who, as President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, from its foundation in 1888 until the day of her death, took a deep and intimate interest in nursing and nurses, furthering their demand for State Registration. By her personal kindness the Princess endeared herself to many nurses, and won their admiration by upholding the dignity and honour of their profession.

The Royal British Nurses' Association has realised the advantage and usefulness of its beautiful Club, so ably administered by Miss Isabel Macdonald, for whose capable administration the members are greatly indebted.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland has held important meetings, and effected further consolidation by the admission of several new Leagues. It deputed Miss Helen Pearse, who has since been elected Hon. Secretary, to attend the Conference convened by the President of the International Council of Nurses and the President and members of the Danish Nurses' Association, held in Copenhagen on July 30th and following days, and Miss M. Breay also, as Hon. Treasurer of the International, attended the meeting of the Executive Committee convened at the same time in her official capacity.

The election of Miss A. Stewart Bryson as President of the Fever Nurses' Association has been received with much satisfaction, and the formation of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association, with Miss Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., Matron of the Kent County Mental Hospital, Maidstone, as Chairman and Hon. Secretary, is evidence that there is arising in the Mental Nursing World a realisation of the need for self-governing organisations.

The Octo-centenary Celebration at St. Bartholomew's Hospital was an event of world-wide interest during the year. The League of

St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses raised over £1,000 to endow a bed in Elizabeth Ward in memory of the Foundation of the hospital by Rahere in 1123, and the gift has been recognised by the election of the President of the League (Miss Helen Todd) as a Governor of the Hospital.

### THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The administration of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales during 1923 has caused deep disappointment to Registered Nurses. The year opened with a second Interregnum, owing to the necessity for the quashing of the mismanaged First Election.

Nurses in training are still awaiting the "prescribed training" to which they are entitled under the Act; Registered Nurses, the registered and protected uniform for which the Act makes provision. The mean little Badge, undignified and unworthy—which we understand was selected on paper—will probably be worn by few.

The publication of the first State Register of Nurses in March after many delays was a momentous event, the deep significance of which is realised by few of the members of the present General Nursing Council. The second Register was published in November.

In the House of Commons the modification of the Scheme for the Election of Direct Representatives on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was moved by Major Barnett on March 14th, who ultimately agreed to the proposal of the Minister of Health, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, that the Motion should be withdrawn, when he would undertake to request the General Nursing Council to consider Major Barnett's Amendments, and ask them to draw up and submit to him such alterations as they might be prepared to make, within the next twelve months. That is how the matter now stands.

The betrayal of some 20,000 trained nurses who had applied for registration under the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)