

woman. We don't dispute that; but the everlasting claim that because nursing is a "truly feminine occupation" "the woman" needs no special training and education to fit herself to care for the sick, is the stupid argument by which nursing has been kept lagging behind other professions for half a century. We hope Mr. Wellman will return to the attack, and keep pegging away until his fellow-Guardians institute an entrance examination for probationers at the Brighton Poor Law Infirmary—a system which should obtain in every Training School.

We would like to emphasise the fact that Dorothy Martha Sparling Sadler, who has been committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court on the charge of wilful murder of the two children of Mr. and Mrs. Katzman, is not a professional, but a domestic nurse. The public may easily assume that Sadler belongs to the former class, as a picture appears of her in one paper, wearing the uniform associated with the professional woman, now so widely adopted by domestic nurse girls. We had hoped that a very distinctive uniform would have been designed for Registered Nurses and registered by the G.N.C. as the State uniform; but that selected is of so commonplace a style that the genus nurse-maid will easily copy it and yet keep within the law.

Speaking editorially on "A Standard Law," the *American Journal of Nursing* emphasises "the crying need of a standard law to serve as a guide to those concerned with the improvement of nursing service through the medium of effective legislation. Even a cursory examination of the present laws shows the amazingly wide variation between the laws of the different States. . . . We need standardisation of our laws if we are to send out from our many schools groups of young women who may claim, with equal justice, the title 'Registered Nurse.' That title should stand for quality—quality upon which the public may depend. Not until we have uniform laws under which suitable standards can be efficiently maintained will the public really know what to expect when a nurse is engaged because she is a Registered Nurse."

To think that we have Acts which provide for a "prescribed" standard of training, and that our reactionary General Nursing Council have opposed this principle being enforced! Now that the new Parliament is elected, we nurses must claim this right *with the gloves off*.

HOW THE COLLEGE CAUCUS CAPTURED THE COUNCIL.

(Concluded from page 390.)

On February 17th, 1922, the Council held an additional meeting to hustle through the two Motions, and the Instruction to the Registrar.

RULE 9 (a).

Dr. Goodall proposed the now notorious Rule 9 (a), and it was seconded by Miss Peterkin. This Rule delegated Statutory duties with which the Council had been entrusted by Parliament to the Secretary of any organised body of Nurses recognised for this purpose by the Council, and provided for the acceptance of "a declaration signed by the Secretary or other responsible officer of that body, that on the admission of the applicant to membership, the Certificate or a *certified* copy thereof was produced to that body." The words "and was verified by" were added as an amendment to be inserted before "that body," thus substituting second-hand evidence for the direct first-hand evidence of training and certification hitherto demanded by the Council.

No evidence was offered that members of organised societies desired to avail themselves of such a provision.

The Rule was drafted to enable members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to register out of their turn, and without delay. It was, of course, supported by the majority of the Council—many of whom, in their ignorance of training standards and credentials, were quite content to support this preferential demand.

I, of course, opposed the principle underlying this Motion, that Members of the Council appreciating personal responsibility conferred upon them by Parliament, were to be deprived of it, and that, if the Motion were carried, there need be no direct documentary evidence of a nurse's qualifications. Nothing but second-hand hearsay on which to compile the Statutory Register.

CHAIRMAN'S DUTY TO BE IMPARTIAL.

As there appeared to be wavering on the part of certain persons present to approve the College policy, the Chairman was seen to pass a *billet doux* to Sir Jenner Verrall, which, caught by an observant eye, proved to contain the request, "Can you not support this on grounds of finance?"

Sir Jenner immediately rose and argued in favour of the new Rule, "as it would be less costly," and "would speed up registration." He expressed himself, as advised, as concerned from a financial point of view!

It is interesting to note that, since Rule 9 (a) was put in force, thousands of applicants have been kept waiting and deprived of registration for upwards of six months, and where the Council expended hundreds, when expert members of the Registration Committee did its own work, it now expends thousands and thousands of pounds on unskilled scrutineers. Of course, the new Rule was approved by the usual 16 to 6 votes.

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