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EDITORIAL.

NURSING IN 1924.

In accordance with our usual practice we devote space in our last issue of the year to the consideration of some of the points of outstanding interest in regard to Nursing during the past year.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NURSES' REGISTRATION ACTS.

Let us enumerate some of the rights granted to trained nurses under the Nurses' Registration Acts, which have been provided by their Governing Bodies.

WHAT WE HAVE.

And first, the *State Register of Nurses*, published in July of this year, is a volume in which nurses can take pride and pleasure. Not in vain did we contend, as a member of the First General Nursing Council for England and Wales, for good paper, legible type, and a handsome binding. And the volume which contains the names and qualifications (do not let us forget the latter, or how much the word "Cert." cost to retain) of some 33,000 nurses registered up to December 31st, 1923, should be in every Nurses' Library.

Then, at long last, we have the *Protected Uniform* for State Registered Nurses, which was one of the things most ardently desired by the rank and file of nurses during the years of propaganda for State Registration; and if it is not as distinctive as all of us could wish its use is restricted to Registered Nurses, with whom it should be a point of honour to wear it as carefully and smartly as the men of His Majesty's Navy and Army wear theirs.

Of the *Badge* to which Registered Nurses are entitled the less said the better. It is mean and disappointing.

Again, *Preliminary State Examinations* of Nurses have been held in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Thus important machinery set up by the Acts is now in working order.

WHAT WE WANT.

We are still awaiting the Prescribed Syllabus of Training for Probationers, provided for in the Registration Acts.

The Amended Schedule for the Constitution of the Council.

An audited balance-sheet published by the Council covering the period 1920 to 1924.

PRESCRIBED TRAINING.

It will be noted in our Report in this issue of the October Examination that complaints are being received, and put forward, by Members of the Council that questions have been put by Examiners to candidates which were outside the limits of the Preliminary Examination.

As, however, there is at present no compulsory Syllabus of Training, nurses in training cannot be sure either that the instruction they receive will cover the required ground, or that the questions asked them will be within defined limits. In the interests alike of Examiners and Examinees it is essential that effect should be given without delay to Section 3 (2) (a) and (b) of the Nurses' Registration Act which provides that:—

"Rules under this section shall contain provisions—
(a) requiring as a condition of the admission of any person to the Register that that person *shall* have undergone the prescribed training, and (b) requiring that the prescribed training shall be carried out in an institution approved by the Council in that behalf, &c."

If there is no prescribed training it is manifest that no person can undergo it, and we call upon the Council charged with the administration of the Act in England and Wales to give effect to this provision.

THE ELECTION OF DIRECT REPRESENTATIVES.

It will be remembered that when the Special Scheme for the Election of Direct Representatives of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was made public there were certain points to which the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, and others, took strong exception, the chief being the limitation of choice in the case of the nurses on the General Part of the Register, and the decree that of their eleven representatives six *must* be Matrons of General Hospitals or Infirmaries, while no similar provision was made that any must be nurses. No such provision was imposed on the nurses on the Supplementary Registers.

When the Scheme was before the House, Major Barnett undertook to move that an humble Address should be presented to His Majesty praying for its modification.

When this Scheme had been laid before each House of Parliament for twenty-one sitting days, on March 21st, 1923, the then Minister of Health (the Right Hon. Neville Chamberlain, M.P.) had only been in office a few days, and consequently could not make the investigations necessary in the case Major Barnett desired to present, before he could accept the Address on the Paper.

The Minister explained the position to the House, and gave an undertaking that if the motion was withdrawn 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 six months. If he approved these alterations they would then be laid on the table of the House and be open to discussion.

Major Barnett thereupon, by the leave of the House, withdrew his motion.

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