

WILL MOST STRICTLY REFRAIN FROM REPEATING OR DIVULGING TO ANYONE, ANY PRIVATE FACTS OR PERSONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING MY PATIENTS, THEIR RELATIONS, OR THEIR FRIENDS, WHICH MAY BE COMMUNICATED TO ME, OR WHICH I MAY LEARN DURING, OR IN CONSEQUENCE OF, MY ATTENDANCE UPON THEM, WHETHER IN HOSPITALS, OR THEIR PRIVATE HOMES, EXCEPT ONLY IF SUCH INFORMATION BE DEMANDED FROM ME AS A WITNESS IN A COURT OF JUSTICE; THAT, AS A FELLOW OF THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, I WILL FAITHFULLY AND CONSTANTLY OBEY ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE COLLEGE WHICH ARE NOW, OR MAY HEREAFTER BE, IN FORCE; THAT I WILL, SO FAR AS MAY BE IN MY POWER, ASSIST ANY OTHER FELLOW OR MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE WHO MAY ASK FOR MY HELP OR ADVICE; AND FINALLY, THAT I WILL CONSTANTLY STRIVE, BOTH BY MY PERSONAL CONDUCT AND MY PROFESSIONAL WORK, TO REFLECT CREDIT ON THE PROFESSION OF NURSING, ON THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, AND ON MY FELLOW-MEMBERS THEREOF. ALL THESE SEVERAL PROMISES I SOLEMNLY SWEAR TO OBSERVE, AND I PRAY THAT I MAY EVER BE STEADFAST IN FULFILLING THE WHOLE OF THIS OBLIGATION OF A FELLOW OF THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

Perhaps hundreds of years hence the records of this Ceremony will be as interesting to future generations of Registered Nurses as are the annals of the Royal Colleges of Physicians or Surgeons to the members of the medical faculty who know their history.

#### Freedom of the Profession to enjoy the Great Gift.

In the Editorial last month appeared the following paragraph:—

"The promoters of the Nurses' College desire to make it quite clear that power has been taken to work in the most amicable spirit with any other organisation of nurses furthering the interests of our Profession and the community, and it is to be hoped that no attempt will be made to prevent the absolute freedom of Members of the Nursing Profession enjoying the Munificent Gift so generously bestowed upon them.

The basic principles of the British College of Nurses are sympathy and solidarity between Members of the Nursing Profession, and it will claim freedom of conscience and action for all."

Alas! liberty of action is apparently to be denied to members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to judge from the following letter received from a member:—

To Miss Brey.

DEAR MADAM,—I have to-day received a letter from Miss Rundle of the College of Nursing, stating that your Society was in no way connected with their Society, and advising me to request you to return the money I have sent to you.

As I am already a member I shall be glad if you will remit the sum, *i.e.*, £1 is.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ETHEL M. NORRIS,  
S.R. 37007.

Cringleford,  
St. Thomas Road, Worthing.

To Miss Ethel M. Norris.

MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge your letter, dated June 18th, requesting upon the advice of Miss Rundle, Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., that your fee of £1 is. sent with your Application Form for election as a Member of the British College of Nurses should be returned to you.

I beg to enclose your crossed Post Office Order for £1 is., by registered letter, and must request you to acknowledge

its receipt, and further to inform you that your Application Form has been cancelled.

You will be unable, therefore, in the future to avail yourself of any of the privileges which the Munificent Gift of £100,000 to Trained Registered Nurses may secure.

Yours faithfully,

MARGARET BREAY, S.R.N.,  
Hon. Secretary.

The British College of Nurses,  
431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

I presume such prejudiced advice would not have been given by the Secretary of the Company upon her own initiative, but, even so, surely the Controllers of the College of Nursing, Ltd., cannot seriously, in these days, imagine they have the right to prevent their members joining other Nurses' Organisations if they choose—and that once within their sphere of influence they are to be controlled within a compound for all time surrounded by barricades of social and official influence!

Such an attitude is not only imperious but ridiculous. I might say something *apropos* of refunding Fees, but at this happy time will refrain from doing so!

How different has been the attitude of the Royal British Nurses' Association towards the good fortune of Registered Nurses in connection with the Great Gift.

Her Royal Highness, the President, made personal enquiries concerning it, and expressed her pleasure—the Hon. Officers—Members of Council, and the liberal-minded Secretary—one and all rejoiced on hearing the good news, and in making known to the members their right to participate in helping to found a Nurses' College governed by Registered Nurses—sound advice which many of them have hastened to adopt.

The Royal British Nurses' Association, without endowment, and at the cost of great self-sacrifice upon the part of individual members, is doing fine work for the Profession, and for years, in competition with organisations well endowed, has kept the true interests of the Profession well to the fore. The Trust Deed of the Nurses' College makes it possible to co-operate in the good work of senior societies, and it is to be hoped that the R.B.N.A. may receive the encouragement and support it deserves in the future. The policy of co-operation and solidarity in nursing ranks is thoroughly sound, and no other has a lasting chance of success. The day of the doctrinaire has departed.

In looking over Application Forms I am delighted to note how eagerly general trained nurses have availed themselves of post graduate courses, and how many nurses possess certificates for special and indispensable knowledge. Many have the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board, of the Royal Sanitary Institute, of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics, and Certificates as Health Visitors.

A few have University degrees. Let us hope the time is near at hand when many more University Graduates will realise the interest and status of Trained Nursing.

#### A Courteous Invitation.

The following letter has been sent to the Matrons of the principal hospitals and Poor Law Institutions in England and Wales who are Registered Nurses:—

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