

State Registration of Nurses for England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, were, in December, 1919, placed upon the Statute Book of these Realms.

The following year she was appointed a member of the First General Nursing Council for England and Wales, upon the invitation of the then Minister of Health, on which she did most valuable work in helping to draft the Rules—securing for the nurses in the qualification column the record of their Certificates and Training Schools, which the ignorant majority of the G.N.C. desired to omit.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Almost equalling her monumental work for the State Registration of Nurses was the foundation in London, in 1899, of the International Council of Nurses, which now includes, through federation, trained nurses throughout the world.

#### OTHER DISTINCTIONS.

Mrs. Fenwick is not only distinguished in the Nursing World, but for 32 years has been Hon. Editor of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, through which the successful propaganda for State Registration of Nurses, and international federation, was conducted, and as a journalist has held the blue ribbon for women of the Profession of Journalism, having been President of the Society of Women Journalists from 1910 to 1911, and representing the Society in Westminster Abbey at the Coronation of King George V, her description of which magnificent function, in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, brought her warm expressions of praise from literary confreres from many parts of the world.

Mrs. Fenwick is a member of the Grand Council and Executive Committee of the Territorial Army Nursing Service for the City and County of London and, during the Great War, was a member of the Ladies' Committee of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, and Hon. Superintendent and Treasurer of the French Flag Nursing Corps under the French War Office, and the British Committee of the French Red Cross, which sent upwards of 250 thoroughly trained certificated British nurses to France to nurse the French sick and wounded, for which service she received the thanks of the French Minister of War and the *Medaille de la Reconnaissance Francaise*.

In addition to holding the office of Hon. President of the International Council of Nurses, Mrs. Fenwick is an Hon. Member of the Irish Matrons' Association and the National Association of Trained Nurses of India, and is the only foreign Hon. Member of the American Nurses' Association, and is also an Hon. Member of the National League of Nursing Education, U.S.A.

With such a record of professional achievement, acceptance by Mrs. Fenwick of the Office of President of the British College of Nurses bestows upon it undoubted prestige and every hope of a useful and brilliant future.

We have pleasure in publishing in this issue on pages 171 and 173 portraits of Miss J. M. Cruickshank, S.R.N., R.R.C. (Foundation Fellow of the British College of Nurses), and Miss E. J. Haswell, S.R.N., a Foundation Member.

Miss Cruickshank has had a distinguished and varied career, having been trained at Guy's Hospital, London, and held the position of Sister in Lady Minto's Nursing Association, Burma; Sister and other positions in the Nursing Services abroad, and is at present Matron-in-Chief of Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service.

Those who have come in contact with Miss Haswell as a worker at home or abroad, will realise that it would be difficult to find a Member better qualified to serve her colleagues on the Council.

We have quite recently published portraits of other Members of the Council.

## A PREJUDICED NOTICE.

### DISTINCTLY UNFAIR TO THE NURSING STAFF.

The Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., have had the following notice posted on the Notice Board of hundreds of hospitals:—

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE.

State Registered Nurses are receiving a leaflet regarding a "British College of Nurses." Do not confuse with it The College of Nursing, which has a membership of over 25,000 fully-trained nurses, and a Student Nurses' Association with more than 1,400 names on the Roll. Apply for information to Miss M. S. Rundle, R.R.C., D.N., *Secretary*, The College of Nursing, Ltd., Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, W.1.

Several questions arise out of this notice, the most important—the omission to inform "State Registered Nurses" that a most munificent Donor has endowed "A British College of Nurses" with a gift of £100,000, with the provision that it shall be governed by the Registered Nurses themselves, as the Royal College of Physicians and of Surgeons are governed by Registered Medical Practitioners. We are of opinion that the suppression of an announcement that Registered Nurses who join the British College of Nurses have this splendid endowment for their professional benefit at their own disposal is quite inexcusable upon the part of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., in their attempt to prevent Registered Nurses exercising absolute freedom to join any College or other Institution they choose.

Anyway, this wholesale use of voluntary and State hospitals for such a prejudiced "Notice" is a very questionable proceeding, and in this instance distinctly unfair to the Nursing Staff, who are kept entirely in the dark as to the wonderful benefaction which is theirs if they choose to use it. The College Company has now become such a very dangerous oligarchy—governed as it is by lay and medical control—that the balance of power must be maintained by the Registered Nurses themselves in a College of their own, if they are not to be submerged entirely, and all power of educational and economic independence denied to them.

And the most insidious movement in College control is what is termed "The Student Nurses' Association." This movement provides for including young women training in hospitals "on probation." What can be more paralysing to individual development? It in practice institutes a condition of servitude from "the cradle to the grave" so far as professional life is concerned.

The specious argument is advanced that the plan merely follows medical precedent. It does no such thing. A medical student and a nurse probationer are by no means governed by the same economic conditions. A medical student is financially independent of hospital Governors, he pays for his medical education and subsistence. A nurse probationer is the salaried officer of the Training School, and is not financially independent, and it is all the more essential that the hospital Committee which employs her shall secure to her the utmost freedom of opinion and action possible, compatible with discipline. No misnamed "Student Nurses' Association," governed by her employers, medical directors, and professional superiors, can leave a "nurse probationer" a rag of personal responsibility during the probationary period. She must crumple up and conform, or remain without the "pale."

Professional organisation should be based on legal status, and nurses in training will be wise to wait until they are registered before being influenced and used for purposes of which they know little. During the training period probationary nurses have quite enough to do in their practical care of the sick, or prosecuting their professional studies, and enjoying reasonable relaxation for the upkeep of health and happiness to fill their lives. Any further strain on their energy is superfluous.

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