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**EDITORIAL.**

**ELECTION TACTICS.**

As the Election for the Direct Representatives of the Nursing Profession on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales takes place before we go to press again we propose to make a survey of Election tactics so that these may be thoroughly understood by Registered Nurses.

It will be remembered that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales is composed of 25 persons.

(1) Nine nominees of Government Departments, Medical men and members of the laity, who, in effect, control the policy of the Council, and whose expenses in connection therewith the Registered Nurses are compelled to pay, although they have no power whatever over their methods of business, or their policy as it affects the Nursing Profession in this country.

(2) Sixteen Registered Nurses, elected by the Registered Nurses. Eleven by the Nurses on the General Part of the Register and five by the Nurses on the Supplementary Parts.

The Registered Nurses on the General Nursing Council therefore have the vote, if they choose to exercise it, in regard to their own business, and that the majority have so conspicuously failed to do so must be attributed to the control which the Nursing Schools and other bodies exercise through the College of Nursing, Ltd., on the policy of the General Nursing Council, so that we are faced to-day with the regrettable fact that the Nursing Profession as a body is entirely submerged by the Council of that College, and has very little individual power either to frame a progressive policy for the Council, or to secure that such a policy shall be carried out.

To enumerate injuries to the Profession to which we take strong exception. We need not enlarge on the notorious strike of members of the first Council, their secret vilification of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick at the Ministry of Health, and other matters.

(1) On taking office the present General Nursing Council elected to the Chair a medical man whose attitude was far from conciliatory; thus free opinion was often suppressed.

The Council, however, are to be commended for having now placed a Registered Nurse in the Chair.

(2) It appointed as Examinations' Officer and Head of the Educational Department, a clerk recommended by the Hon. Secretary of the College of Nursing, and whose knowledge of the theory of professional Nursing was necessarily of the most limited order. We contend that this highly technical post should have been filled by a thoroughly qualified Nurse, and consider the action of

the present General Nursing Council in appointing an untrained woman to this responsible and highly paid position was inexcusable.

(3) Owing to the action of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., members of which have also seats on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, in advocating an inexcusably low standard for "Existing Nurses," what is known as the Chapple "Rules Modification Order, 1923," became law, and some thousands of inadequately trained women were admitted to the State Register of Nurses, the standard of which will thus presumably be degraded for the next 20 years.

(4) The Medical Chairman of the General Nursing Council, as its representative, opposed before a Select Committee of the House of Commons an open election of Direct Representatives for the Nurses on the General Part of the Register, petitioned for by Registered Nurses, and also opposed the enforcement of a Prescribed Syllabus of Training, which is provided for in the Nurses' Registration Act. Nevertheless, the evidence in favour of free nomination, submitted on behalf of Registered Nurses, was so overwhelming that the Committee reported in favour of this reform; and with firmness and united action on the part of the General Nursing Council the prescribed Syllabus of Training would probably have been won also. As it is, the teaching in many hospitals is not up to the prescribed standard, and hundreds of probationers have been referred by the examiners.

(5) In connection with the action of the Ministry of Health in directing the Council to recognise as a Training School for Fever Nurses a hospital whose application it had refused, it succumbed to *force majeure* without a protest, but it is to be commended for endeavouring in the first instance to enforce an adequate standard.

(6) So far it has made no adequate arrangements for the periodical inspection of training schools.

(7) Its most grievous offence, in our opinion, is that it retained upon the Register of Nurses, the purity of which it was its duty to safeguard, the name of a Nurse proved guilty of theft in a Court of Law. But enough!

**The Coming Election.**

In regard to the coming election, Registered Nurses have the opportunity and the duty to elect those they believe to be the best candidates.

It is well known that there are two schools of thought as to Nursing Politics, the Progressives, and the anti-Registrationists, for "once an anti always an anti." The type of mind persists though it operates differently.

We are now faced with this position. A committee appointed by the College of Nursing, Ltd., the Hospital

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