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EDITORIAL.

APPLICATION OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD., FOR A ROYAL CHARTER.

The decision of an Extraordinary General Meeting of Members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to "petition His Majesty's Privy Council for the incorporation by a Royal Charter of a Corporation to be known as 'The Royal College of Nursing,'" raises very important issues.

In the first place, the Chairman of the Council of the College, the Honble. Sir Arthur Stanley, as reported in its official organ, stated that the Council wished to include all the powers they already had in their Memorandum and Articles of Association, with the exception of one or two small matters, and in addition powers to grant Diplomas.

Then there was one most important change. "They had power to elect on the Council or on Committees, laymen or doctors or anybody they liked, and these people, if elected, became *ipso facto* members of the College. That had been taken out, for this very good reason; they particularly wanted to go to the Privy Council as an organisation of nurses and nurses only. . . . But what they had done was to retain the power of the Members of the College to call in anybody they liked to advise them."

This is borne out by the Draft Charter which provides that the present Council shall be the first Council under the Royal Charter (if and when granted), and this includes ten medical men, laymen and laywomen on a Council which, with the President, includes 37 persons; that the *Council* shall have power from time to time to appoint any other persons to be Members of the Council or Committees, and though each registered Nurse on the Register of the College is entitled to one vote for each of any number of candidates not exceeding the number of Members of the Council to be elected, "the *Council* may delegate any of their powers to Committees consisting of such Member or Members of their body, together with any other persons not members of the Council as the Council think fit," and presumably the Hon. Officers, 4 out of 6 of whom are not at present nurses, will continue to be able to hold office under the new Charter.

To go to His Majesty's Privy Council therefore posing as "an organization consisting of nurses, and nurses only," is very disingenuous. The rank and file may consist of nurses, but the Council, none of whom, with the exception of the President, need be a Member of the College, "retain the power."

Petition of College of Nursing to be Opposed.

As will be noted in the proceedings of Meetings of the Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association (which possesses wide powers granted to it by Her Majesty Queen Victoria in 1893) and of the Council of the British College of Nurses, of which Reports appear in this issue, these two bodies held a conjoint Conference at which it was unanimously decided to petition, to be heard by King's Counsel against the application of the College of Nursing, Ltd., as in the opinion of these bodies neither the laity nor the medical profession should control Registered Nurses.

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NURSING.

Convened by the Labour Party.

A special Committee representative of the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organizations, and the Labour Party's Advisory Committee on Public Health, has recently prepared a Draft Report on "The Nursing Profession," and the Party has now issued invitations to a National Conference of various organizations interested in Nursing, to be held in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Friday, January 28th, at 10 a.m. The Morning Session will be presided over by the Right Hon. Frederick O. Roberts, M.P., late Minister for Pensions, and Chairman of the Labour Party Executive, and the afternoon Session by Mrs. Sidney Webb.

The Report is in three parts, (1) "Sick Nursing Services," the discussion on which will be introduced by Dr. Somerville Hastings; (2) "Nurses Employed by the State," discussion to be introduced by Mr. G. Gibson (National Asylum Workers' Union); and (3) "Public Health and Preventive Services," discussion to be introduced by Miss A. Sayle (Women's Sanitary Inspectors' and Health Visitors' Association).

It is not proposed to take specific Resolutions on, or amendments to, the Report. The Conference is being held to provide a frank interchange of opinion, and all suggestions that are put forward during the discussion will receive consideration before the official Report is issued.

It will be remembered that a Conference on Nursing was convened during the period that a Labour Government was in Office, and the Party's Executive Committee has evidently taken considerable trouble in enquiring into Nursing conditions, and in drafting the Report for consideration, and we hope the Nurses Organizations will be well represented at the Conference, as, although there is much in the Report with which the Registered Nurses can agree, there are also important items upon which the Labour Party evidently needs the considered opinion of the Nursing Profession.

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