

portal entrance to the State Register. From the time when the movement for State Registration started, it had been the principle for which its promoters unhesitatingly stood throughout the long struggle for the Acts, that candidates should gain admission to the State Register through one-portal only and that no side doors nor back-stair entrances should be permitted. Only through a recognised and efficiently conducted State Examination was it possible to ensure uniformity in education and examination and only such a system could be regarded as fair to all candidates for admission to the Register. It was further pointed out that the Royal Medico-Psychological Association has a membership of Medical Practitioners only, and surely it was a retrograde step, at the present time, for any body of nurses to be prepared to hand over the highly important work of examining for the State Register to a body in which there was not the faintest suspicion of self-government from the nurses' point of view. It would be placing the hallmark of inefficiency on the nurses as a whole to say that arrangements for examination were to be entirely under the control of such a body, and the fact that Matrons might be chosen to assist at the examinations did not alter this standpoint. The healthy growth of the various Registers and Supplementary Registers could only be obtained by protecting their privileges and their functioning.

Reference was made to the fact that probably the Royal Medico-Psychological Association would bring to bear on the General Nursing Councils, the Ministry of Health and Parliament itself the weight of a vast amount of medical influence and the hope was expressed that the nurses would use every effort individually and conjointly to protect privileges won at the cost of much self-sacrificing and arduous labour on the part of the promoters of the movement. It would be a real calamity to all nurses if the demands of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association were acceded to, because very likely this would be a signal to, or at least a precedent for, other voluntary associations to lay their plans to become vampires on the Registration Act, and to force privileges for themselves which would not be in any way conducive to the professional status of the nurses in the body politic. Recognising this, it was obvious that the matter of the proposal of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association was not a domestic affair for those on the Register of Nurses trained in the Nursing of Mental Diseases, but one important to every section of the State Register. It was only the autonomy of the Register of Nurses trained in the Nursing of Mental Disease which was being attacked at present, but if the attack were successful the day might be near or far when similar dangers would present themselves in the case of other Registers. It therefore behoved every nurse to be on the alert to protect the rights and privileges won for her Profession. No one could shut her eyes to the fact that an attack on the principle of a one-portal system was meditated.

#### Conclusions.

It was agreed unanimously that copies of the Resolution above quoted be sent to the General Nursing Councils and to the Minister of Health and that the covering letter should incorporate the following arguments bearing on the Resolution:—

1. If adopted the proposals of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association would create a precedent calculated effectively to destroy the whole system of the one-portal entrance to the State Register, a principle which, from the inception of the Registration Movement, has been held to be vital to the efficient working of any Act for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Any infringement of such system is bound to lead to a lack of uniformity in education, training and examination, thus mitigating against the value of the Acts to the community.

2. The General Nursing Council which is responsible for the administration of the Act should remain unhampered in the exercise of its functions, a condition impossible to maintain if it is subordinated to the necessity of admitting to its Register Nurses examined by a voluntary body over which it has no jurisdiction.

3. The Registration Acts have now been established for nearly ten years and to amend their operations in such a way as to induce co-operation with bodies which have no legal recognition is a retrograde step which should not be tolerated either by Nurses on the General part of the Register, or by those on the Register of Nurses trained in the Nursing of Mental Diseases. To maintain the status of the State Register it must be protected from suspicion of interference or coercion from any other organisation not analogous to it from a professional point of view, such as would inevitably arise if the demands of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association were acceded to.

At the close of the meeting Miss Carson Rae, who presided, proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Macaulay for coming up to address the meeting and said that the nurses present felt that in leading off the discussion and giving them opportunity for considering her Resolution, she had done good service to the Registration cause. This was seconded by Miss Lord and carried with acclamation.

#### INVITATION.

Miss Swaby Smith will be "At Home" to members and friends on Thursday the 25th inst. from 4 to 6 p.m. at 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. She hopes that this will be taken as an invitation and that many will be able to accept her hospitality.

#### DONATIONS.

We acknowledge, with thanks, the following donations. Those for the "House Beautiful Fund" have been specially acceptable, as we have been having very extensive decorations done at the Club. As a result, the house is looking its best so that we hope that many Members will be able to come and view the results of their kindness. Now that the army of painters have taken their departure, we will be able to proceed with the usual social and other activities, and particulars regarding these will be available shortly, on application to the Secretary.

#### House Beautiful Fund.

Mrs. M. Lawther, Miss Swaby Smith, £2; Miss Treasure, £1 1s.; Mrs. Lambert, Messrs. Travener & Son, £1; Miss Hulme, 16s.; Miss Jordan, 15s.; Mrs. Eeles, 10s. 6d.; Misses Colman, Dorrell, Le Bailly, J. M. Stewart; 10s.; Misses Dickson, Farrant, Willmore, 5s.; Miss Brodie, 4s. 6d.; Misses Fincher, Kent, Parsons, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Robson, Misses Appleyard, Holmes, 2s.

#### Helena Benevolent Fund.

Misses Dixon, Garland, Macleod-Orr, M. M. Ogden, E. Page-Henderson, E. M. Price, A. de S. Wickham, 2s.; Mrs. A. M. Fry, Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Welch, Misses E. M. Adams, E. Anderton, J. M. Bennetts, B. Cave, A. Crowsley, D. Evans, M. A. Mitchell, E. Riches, A. Spring, T. E. Terry, A. E. Workman, 1s.

#### NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

The Executive Committee will shortly be making arrangements for the election of Members to fill vacancies on the General Council of the Association as provided for under By-law XVII. All nominations of Members, to fill the vacancies arising under the By-law, should be received at the Office not later than April 18th, 1929.

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)