

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Corporation will take place at 194, Queen's Gate, on Thursday, 28th May, at 3.0 p.m.

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS.

It has been our custom during the last few years to send to the National Council of Nurses a contribution from the Association towards the Scholarship Fund of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Foundation and we hope to forward our usual donation during the current month. We have usually had an "American Tea" or some similar effort to help towards raising the amount. This year Miss Macdonald is having printed a limited number of copies of her lecture on St. Brigid of Kildare and these will be sold at ninepence each to help to meet the amount of our donation to the Foundation. We shall be glad therefore, if those who are kind enough to wish to help their Association in this piece of work will send to the office for copies.

Saint Brigid is the first nursing saint in Northern History of whom we have information, but in addition to her activities in this direction she was a scholar, a brilliant organiser and she had an influence upon the culture of Ireland and Western Scotland that can be traced down to the present time.

## REPORT OF THE SCOTTISH DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON THE TRAINING OF NURSES.

The Executive Committee have addressed the following letter to the Secretary of State for Scotland on the above Report.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION,  
194, QUEEN'S GATE, LONDON, S.W.7.  
14th April, 1936.

To the Right Hon. Sir Godfrey Collins, K.B.E., C.M.G., M.P.,  
Secretary of State for Scotland,  
121a, Princes Street, Edinburgh.

SIR,—The Executive Committee of this Corporation have had under consideration the Report of the Scottish Departmental Committee on the Training of Nurses and, while my Committee appreciate the value of the Report as the result of a very complete investigation into nursing conditions in relation to education and training, they desire to lay before you certain criticisms arising on the Recommendations contained in the Report.

### Recommendation 4.

Although the Committee are certainly in favour of provision for specialisation in a training extending to four or five years, they consider that the adoption of Recommendation 4, as it stands, would give no guarantee of a well-balanced course of nursing education. In practice this Recommendation would either lead to a shortage of probationers for the medical wards in the general hospitals or, what is more likely, a proper balance would not

be maintained, for the nurse, as between medical nursing and other branches such as, for instance, surgical, gynaecological and ophthalmic nursing, branches of which she would not be able to gain experience while in the fever hospital. There would thus be a strong tendency towards a preponderance of medical over surgical experience in a nurse's training. Further, in our opinion, it would prove exceedingly difficult to regulate the numbers of applicants for training in the nursing of sick children, tuberculosis, mental nursing, orthopaedic and the chronic sick. It is conceivable that many nurses, anxious for training in the nursing of sick children or tuberculosis, might be compelled to take training in mental nursing or the care of the chronic sick while their intention is to follow up some quite other branch of nursing.

### Central Register.

To give to a Central Register, established on the lines suggested, the position of precedence over the General Part of the Register, which is implied in the Report, would prove a grave injustice to many excellent nurses whose names would not be included in this Central Register but who have yet taken a wide and comprehensive training in one or other of the leading schools—a training probably far more comprehensive in actual fact, and in the number of branches covered, than would be the case in connection with many nurses, eligible to be placed upon the Central Register but with knowledge and experience collected in hospitals of very unequal value as training schools.

### Supplementary Tuberculosis Register.

Relative to the suggested Supplementary part of the Register for Tuberculosis Nurses, we protest against any further increase in the number of Supplementary Registers as tending to greater confusion, to a multiplication of standards and to an increase in the number of nurses without a complete general training.

### Publication of the Register.

My Committee deprecate very strongly the suggestion contained in paragraph 14 as they consider that to publish the State Register only once in five years would destroy its value as an up-to-date source of information for those employing nurses.

### Reciprocity.

I am also to point out that the adoption of the Recommendations contained in the Report of the Scottish Departmental Committee would of necessity complicate most seriously the position as regards reciprocity as this relates to the English and Scottish Registers.

The Executive Committee earnestly trust that you will take into consideration the above mentioned points when giving consideration to the Report.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary.

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