

that they happen to be members of the professional association of trained nurses is a pure coincidence. As the college, however, has so great a membership (over 29,000) it would be difficult to choose any prominent member of the nursing profession who was not associated with it."

Inaccurate and Misleading.

This communication from Miss Goodall is inaccurate and misleading, we say nothing of the astounding "sting in the tail"!!

We have before us the Report of the Thirty-third General Meeting of the Association of Hospital Matrons, held in the Cowdray Hall, College of Nursing, November 20th, 1937.

Under "Correspondence" the following paragraph appears:—

(a) "Government Inquiry into Nursing Conditions. A letter from the Minister of Health was read inviting the Association to submit two or three names of their members for consideration, with reference to the appointment of the Committee of Inquiry into Nursing conditions."

The following names had been submitted to the Minister: Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, D.B.E., R.R.C., President; Miss Helen Dey, O.B.E., R.R.C. (St. Bartholomew's Hospital); Miss D. M. Smith (Middlesex Hospital).

The members would all have heard with pleasure that Miss Musson (nominated by the General Nursing Council) was appointed as a member of the Commission and that she would have as her colleague, Miss Dorothy Smith (one of the nominees of the Association)."

It will be seen that as we have previously reported, nominations to the Committee were made *in response to an invitation from the Minister of Health*, by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and the Association of Hospital Matrons. There would appear to be no "coincidence" about these nominations "pure" or otherwise.

We are of opinion that Miss Frances G. Goodall, Secretary to the College of Nursing, owes an apology for her inaccurate communication both to Miss Thora Silverthorne and to the Editor of *The Times*.

THE RECRUITMENT OF MENTAL NURSES.

The Mental Hospital Workers' Journal announces that a Joint Committee has been appointed by the Mental Hospitals' Association and the Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union to investigate the problem of Recruitment and Training of Mental Nurses.

The shortage of nurses in mental hospitals is becoming a matter of grave concern, and the Joint Committee will be glad to consider representations from any persons with knowledge of the problem as affecting mental hospitals.

The Executive Council of the Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union have decided that in the event of the Union being invited to tender evidence before the Government Committee, the latter Committee be informed that the Mental Hospitals' Association and the Union are conducting their own Inquiry into the shortage of *mental nurses* and will be prepared to forward their conclusions to the Government Committee when the Inquiry has been completed. No evidence will be tendered by the Union to the Government Committee.

SCOTTISH COMMITTEE ON NURSING.

The Departmental Committee on Nursing, which is inquiring into the recruitment and the terms and conditions of service of nurses in Scotland, has held two further meetings. At these meetings oral evidence was given by representatives of the Scottish branch of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, the Scottish Matrons' Association, Edinburgh Corporation, the Astley Ainslie Institution, Edinburgh, the General Board of Control for Scotland, Stirling Royal Infirmary, and Fife County Council.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

We have been urged to reprint the following extracts from the *News Sheet* of the London Branch of the College of Nursing, in connection with a resolution to consider the promotion of a Federation of Special Nurses with the College of Nursing—organisation already incorporated in the Constitution of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

From recent correspondence with members of the College of Nursing, they are evidently ignorant of the fact that nurses represented in the several parts of the State Register are already affiliated to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and take an active part in its Councils and organisation much to their mutual advantage.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LONDON BRANCH "NEWS SHEET."

RESOLUTION.

"That the Council of the College of Nursing be asked to consider the advisability of promoting a Federation of Nurses represented on the several Parts of the State Register."

To consider at the request of the Council a Scheme of affiliation of State Registered Nurses' Associations to the College of Nursing.

N.B.—This Scheme was drawn up in fulfilment of what appeared to be the desire of the Branches.

DISCUSSION.

The Chairman pointed out that this "Resolution" had been agreed upon at the last General Meeting of the Branch and it was for the members to make clear to their Local Representatives which form of Federation they desired the Council of the College of Nursing to promote. The resolution was then considered in conjunction with a Draft Scheme for suggested affiliation of Associations of Nurses (whose names appear upon the Supplementary Parts of the State Register) to the College of Nursing.

The Chairman pointed out that it was important to try and obtain at this juncture the greatest common measure of action, and it might be done by an Amalgamation of Associations of special nurses to the College of Nursing, or by the promoting of a loose federation of separate Associations, delegating the federal body only such powers as can be exercised with the consent of all the Associations concerned.

Miss G. B. Carter asked if the Profession had not already the nucleus of a Federated body in the National Council of Nurses, and since the College of Nursing was the largest Association affiliated to that Council, would not the best course be for the Council to approach that body asking for its reconstitution that it might form an organ which would express the will of all sections of the profession; and that no further steps be taken with the Draft Scheme of affiliation as submitted to the Branches until this approach had been made.

The following resolution was then proposed by Miss Carter and seconded by Miss Baggallay:—

"The London Branch ask the Council of the College of Nursing, as representing the largest constituent body of the National Council of Nurses, to approach that body with the request that it shall consider its reconstitution on such lines that it may form a national Federation of all State Registered Nurses to voice the aims and opinions of a united nursing profession and to delay consideration of the Draft Scheme submitted to the Branches until the results of such an approach be known."

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