

and control of every branch of nursing practice, and in consequence of the lives and liberties of the individual, is antagonistic to our national instincts of freedom? The groups of free nurses will never be absorbed by such a policy.

Just this dangerous policy of absorption is apposite in connection with the constitution of the Student Nurses' Association. The criticism which appeared in the R.B.N.A. Supplement is considered by Miss Baggallay to have been supplied by an unreliable witness.

We have before us the Constitution of the Association. Under "Subscriptions" it is provided . . . the subscription of 12s. per annum, which, at the end of three years is deemed to have covered:—

- (a) Subscription to Association.
- (b) Membership Fee payable on joining the College.
- (c) Membership subscription to College for first year.

Shall be paid by 12 monthly instalments of 1s. each to the Honorary Treasurer of each unit, who will be responsible for handing it to the College from time to time as may be arranged.

If this is not an "automatic system," what is?

Is this monthly tax justifiable in Nurse Training Schools? We doubt it.

Our statement that the College of Nursing has been given representation on the Inter-Departmental Committee cannot be disputed. The four nurses on the Committee all belong to that organisation. We disputed the statement made in the *Times* by Miss Goodall, the Secretary of the College, that "the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, was set up I believe by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education, and no nurses' associations as such were invited to appoint representatives to serve thereon."

This is an entirely erroneous and misleading statement.

The Minister of Health invited the General Nursing Council to nominate a representative, and Miss Musson was selected in open Council.

The Association of Hospital Matrons was also invited by the Minister of Health "to submit two or three names of their members for consideration." This it did at its meeting at the College of Nursing on November 20th, 1937, and of its nominees, Miss D. M. Smith, Matron of Middlesex Hospital, was selected.

The name of Miss Frances Wakeford, Staff Nurse, Kingston and District Hospital, was put forward through the College of Nursing and accepted.

Why therefore should we accept a statement made by the Secretary of the College which was inaccurate? She may have had "the right," as stated by Miss Baggallay, "to speak on this point," but we claim she should have spoken the truth, if she knew it, and if not, have kept silent.

We now come to Miss Baggallay's most unjustifiable attack upon the reputation of the National Council of Nurses. She writes: "We have had, since 1904, a National Council of Nurses with every opportunity for organised and democratic leadership, yet it has entirely failed to unite the profession. Its influence appears to have been destructive rather than constructive."

Miss Baggallay again fails to put forward a scrap of evidence in support of her antagonistic statement.

As Founder of the National and International Councils of Nurses, we are content to abide by the overwhelming

consensus of opinion of the whole company of nurses who assembled in International Congress in London in July last. They one and all acclaimed the organised construction which has united the nurses of the whole world in international amity and fellowship.

Of our own National Council we need only realise that through affiliation it combines 45 organisations with a membership of thousands of nurses, the majority of whom have worked together for the common good in a spirit of wonderful generosity.

Incidentally we need only refer to one amongst many of its constructive efforts. If our own National Council had not taken the initiative in organizing the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, together with the British Red Cross Society, and the League of Red Cross Societies, which inspired the organisation of upwards of 20 National Memorial Committees all over the world, Miss Olive Baggallay would not at the moment be enjoying the very honourable and highly remunerated office of Secretary to the Foundation. In our opinion she is the very last person who has any right to complain of the "destructive" rather than a "constructive" influence of our National Council in the nursing world. We may leave it at that.

ETHEL G. FENWICK,
*Founder and President, the National
Council of Nurses of Great Britain.*

MENTAL HOSPITAL MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The very well attended 60th Quarterly Meeting of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association was held on Saturday, 5th March, 1938, at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, at 2.30 p.m., preceded by a meeting of the Executive Committee.

At this meeting the following new Members were elected:—

Miss Marion I. H. Skene, Matron, Bethlem Royal Hospital, Beckenham, Kent.

Miss Margaret Roger, Matron, The Warnford, Oxford.
Miss S. E. Connolly, Matron, City Mental Hospital, Fulford, York.

Miss C. M. Nicol, Matron, Somerset and Bath Mental Hospital, Cotford, near Taunton.

Miss Florence Earl, Matron, Warlingham Park Hospital, Warlingham, Surrey.

Miss Skene was elected Honorary Treasurer to the Association in succession to Miss Hearder, retired.

MOUNTAIN OBSTETRICS.

The *Quarterly Bulletin* is full of the reports of stirring deeds. Dr. John H. Kooser, Medical Director of the Frontier Nursing Service, writing on "Mountain Obstetrics" stirs not only admiration, but the heart. "A vivid description of a common experience in the mountains—that of transporting a woman in childbirth some eight or ten miles by stretcher through a winter storm."

Dr. Kooser, touching on "organisation," writes:—
Organisation usually means records, ledgers, time sheets, office desks; but to me it will always mean *Molly Jones*. I answered a knock at the clinic door one wintry afternoon, to find Stanley. "Yes, I've come for the nurse. Molly's bad off as she can be."

"Poor Nurse," I thought, when I saw her and Stanley go through the barn; for I knew Sally Sizemore Branch, seven hard miles away—two mountains, five branches, and one main creek. I felt snug in my warm room, but I wasn't

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