

## ADMINISTRATION CLASS.

June 22nd.—By the kind permission of the authorities concerned, the Administration Class will visit the clinic of the Society for the Provision of Free Medical Treatment for Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, 25, Stratford Road, Kensington, W.8. 2.30 p.m.

## THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 4th, 1939, at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, at 3 p.m., at which the President will take the Chair,

## AGENDA.

1. Prayers.
2. The Presentation of the Annual Report.
3. The Financial Report from the Treasurer.
4. The appointment of Auditors.

Reception and tea at 4.30 p.m. All Fellows and Members are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting and Reception, and thus encourage the Council in its arduous work for their professional interests, and prove their sympathy with one another.

LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE EARL OF ATHLONE.  
A GRAVE PROFESSIONAL INJUSTICE.

The British College of Nurses,  
19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.  
May 23rd, 1939.

To the Right Honble, Earl of Athlone, P.C., K.G., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., D.S.O., Chairman, The Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services.

My Lord,

At a recent Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses it was agreed that there be conveyed to your Lordship an expression of the concern with which we view the Recommendation (contained in the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services) to establish a Roll of partially trained nurses under the ægis of the Nurses' Registration Act.

This Recommendation, if carried into effect, would involve nothing short of a breach of contract with some 80,000 nurses now on the Register. They met the demands of the State in the matter of education and training, submitted themselves to examination by the State, and paid the required examination and retention fees in full confidence that the assurances that the Act supplied for the protection of their high qualifications would not be annulled. To "recognise" and "protect" women who have failed to reach the minimum standard hitherto demanded by the State (even if those be placed on a separate Roll) and to use the Nurses' Act to accomplish this would be to establish an injustice and hardship that thousands of nurses would resent most deeply. All the more will this be so when they come to experience the economic disadvantage at which they are placed if and when (through the Registration Act which they won after thirty years of struggle) the State gives its recognition and approval to the very people from whom the Act is designed to protect them.

Apart from the professional aspects of the rights and privileges of the Act, it is to be remembered that there have been no State Grants for its administration, and that the nurses themselves have supplied the money required to meet an annual expenditure of some £50,000.

The position is a serious one, and that is our plea for venturing to approach your Lordship and to ask you to use your influence to prevent what would be a grave professional injustice and an irreparable injury to the economic independence of the Registered Nurses.

I have the honour to remain, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

ETHEL G. FENWICK,  
President.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON  
NURSING SERVICES.

Ministry of Health,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.  
May 30th, 1939.

DEAR MADAM,

Lord Athlone has asked me to acknowledge your letter to him of the 23rd May, and to say that he has noted its contents.

Yours faithfully,

W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, F.B.C.N.,  
The British College of Nurses,  
19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE WIDER  
ASPECTS OF NUTRITION.

The National Conference on the Wider Aspects of Nutrition summoned recently by the British Medical Association to focus attention on the need for a long time food policy embracing the requirements of health, agriculture and industry in mutual relation, called forth some constructive suggestions. Lord Horder said the problem of malnutrition had become urgent with doctors, and that Conference should be the end of their talking.

There should emerge from their discussions a definite pronouncement on the factors which could resolve the intolerably primitive situation.

At the close of the Conference they should be able to broadcast in simple terms a charter which the people could demand. With such a charter to stimulate them he could think of nothing better calculated to act as an "anti-jitter" specific, nor anything more likely to make dictators think again on our alleged decadence if a joint crusade of medical, industrial, and economic effort on the part of all the Government Departments concerned were begun in real earnest.

Lord Astor urged that the next social reform should be to abolish malnutrition. We needed a largely increased consumption of the health protective foods.

Malnutrition was partly due to ignorance, but mainly to poverty. Millions of people to-day simply could not afford to give their children enough health foods to avoid the evils of malnutrition. Milk was far the most important food for nutrition. If children and nursing mothers could have sufficient milk, our problem of malnutrition would be largely solved. Yet, after five years of the Milk Scheme, the retail price of milk had risen, and was high compared with other countries.

Lord Astor proposed to subsidise the consumption of home-grown health protective foods for mothers, infants, and children by encouraging local authorities to push ahead with cheap meals at clinics, schools, etc. These, he said, would lead to a big expansion in home production of milk, eggs, vegetables, fruit, and potatoes. He would subsidise research on animal health, make the latest knowledge easily available to farmers, help efficiency by reconstructing out-of-date buildings, improving soil fertility, better housing, schools, water supplies, electricity, and health services in rural areas.

Professor W. C. Miller, Courtauld Professor of Animal Husbandry, Royal Veterinary College, London, dealt with the veterinary aspect of national nutrition.

What is necessary by some means or other is to make the people realise food values, and bring down the cost of whole milk, green stuff and fruit.

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