

## ONE PORTAL ENTRY TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

The Medical Practitioners' Union have issued a memorandum on the constitution and functions of the General Medical Council, in which it suggested that an entirely new body should be set up to exercise such control over the discipline of registered medical practitioners as the State might require. Half the members would consist of directly elected medical practitioners and there would be an age limit of 65.

Copies of the memorandum have been sent to Mr. Chamberlain, Lord Maugham (the Lord Chancellor), Mr. Walter Elliot, Minister of Health, and members of Parliament.

Dealing with criticisms of the educational deficiencies of medical practitioners, the memorandum states that most medical men believed there should be only *one portal of entry into the profession*.

The standard adopted by some examining bodies was very much inferior to that of others, and the lowest standards might be too low. The position required investigation, and many people were convinced of the need for a standard examination.

### "INFAMOUS CONDUCT."

Referring to the Council's conception of "professional crime" and "infamous conduct" the memorandum states that the punishment, removal of the practitioner's name from the register, was too harsh in many cases.

The Union recommends that a committee, representative of all interests, be set up to consider and report on the steps necessary to bring a one-portal system of medical qualification into being.

It suggests that there should be transferred to the new body all powers of discipline at present possessed by the General Medical Council and the Minister of Health under the National Health Insurance Acts.

From decisions of this body, it is recommended, there should be a right of appeal to the appropriate court on both questions of fact and questions of law and by way of re-hearing.

Thus just as the Nursing Profession has been most cruelly deprived of the immeasurable privilege of One Portal to the Register by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, owing to the intensive policy of Government nominees in favour of *The Lancet* Commission decrees, we find a professional wing of the Medical Profession demanding a one-portal entry into the medical profession. As we have emphasised in another column, now that the Registered Nurses have been left defenceless, the degrading of their professional status has been recommended by the Select Committee on Nursing Services, and their economic security made dangerously insecure, by the recognition of a class of semi-trained women who, known as "Assistant Nurses," are to have statutory recognition by Act of Parliament and be given legal status, and their names placed on a Roll controlled by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

### HOLIDAY COTTAGE TO LET.

A Fellow of the British College of Nurses would like it made known that she has, to let, at Clitheroe, Lancs, in an ideal walking centre, a comfortably furnished cottage with all modern sanitation.

Inclusive terms 1 guinea per week for each person; no extras. Transport from 'bus and train included in charge.

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

### A Council of State.

A Council of State will be appointed to act for the King while he and the Queen are on their Canadian tour in June.

It is stated that the Councillors will be the Duke of Gloucester, the Duke of Kent, the Princess Royal, and Princess Arthur of Connaught.

### L.C.C.'s First Woman Chairman.

Mrs. Eveline M. Lowe, one of the best known educationists in the London Socialist party, has been nominated as Chairman of the L.C.C. during this year—the Council's jubilee year. This is the first time that a woman has been selected Chairman of the Council.

### Wives' Lost Nationality.

At the New Year's dinner of the Imperial Industries Club, which was recently held at the Park Lane Hotel, Lord Alness, proposing the toast of "The Ladies," said there was one reform which women had not achieved—namely, the restitution of the right which the British woman lost in 1870 to retain her nationality when she married an alien. The cases of hardship, indignity, and tragedy which came under his notice in consequence of that harsh and unjust law were simply legion. He introduced a Bill in the House of Lords last year in order to remove the grievance (for which chivalrous action the Council of the British College of Nurses sent him thanks). It was opposed by the Government, not on its merits—but on the ground of nationality being an Imperial matter.

The Government would not move until complete agreement had been reached with the Dominions on that subject. That meant that one of the Dominions could veto a reform which had been admitted by Prime Minister after Prime Minister to be a just reform. He felt strongly on the matter and proposed to reintroduce the measure in the hope that the unfortunate wife would be successful in her just claim.

Considering that the Statute of Westminster constituted the Dominions nationally independent, we must claim the same statutory powers in Great Britain. The fact remains, however, that the women of the Dominions are warmly in favour of this just reform and the opposition comes from men where their sex domination is as demoralising as it is oppressive.

More work for the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council!

### Wages for Wives.

Dr. Edith Summerskill, M.P., proposes to introduce a Bill into Parliament during the year providing that married women will be legally entitled to wages and benefit under the National Health Insurance Scheme. This possible revolution in the domestic realms of the home has been planned by the Married Women's Association, of which Mrs. Mavis Tate, M.P., and Dr. Edith Summerskill, M.P., are vice-presidents. The object of the Association is to improve the status of married women. As the law stands a married woman is only entitled to goods from her husband. It is usual for men outside manual working ranks to make a "marriage settlement" on his wife. The wife of the manual worker contributes her share of labour in the upkeep of the home.

The question of penal reform is now before Parliament, and discussion is being concentrated on two items—the abolition of the death penalty and of the punishment of "the cat." Public opinion is divided, and we find many women strongly object to the abolition of castigation for certain crimes. The prevalence of the molestation of children, in their opinion, should be much more severely punished than it is.

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