

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE REGISTERED NURSE.

A meeting of the above Special Committee was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Thursday, September 24th, to consider the Report of the Reconstruction Committee of the Royal College of Nursing, Section 1: The Assistant Nurse. The Chairman, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., presided.

Analogous to the subject to be considered the President reported under Correspondence.

1. That the request to the Minister of Health to receive a deputation of the rank and file of Registered Nurses to place before him their considered opinion in opposition to those advanced by the Association of Hospital Matrons, on the de-grading of the Nursing Profession, had not yet been conceded.

2. That at the request of members, the Chairman of the London County Council had been communicated with, reporting their objection to the proposal that a School for semi-trained Assistant Nurses should be inaugurated by the L.C.C., and that unregistered Assistant Nurses should be eligible for the School Nursing Service of the Council, which hitherto had been recognised as a highly qualified service for the benefit of children in Metropolitan schools, which if de-graded would inevitably result in the deterioration of their health. The Chairman of the L.C.C. had been informed that Registered Nurses were considerable rate-payers throughout the Metropolis, and that they strongly objected to their money being used to depreciate the status and the quality of the School Nursing Service, which were of national importance to the standards of health of London's children.

Report of the Nursing Reconstruction Committee of the Royal College of Nursing.

The Special Committee then proceeded to consider the above Report.

It has realised that under the Chairmanship of Lord Horder's Committee, largely composed of representatives of powerful employers' organisations, together with Nurse members of the College, its recommendations were of a very dangerous nature so far as the status, efficiency and economic security of Registered Nurses were concerned.

It has agreed that the Special Committee should draft a considered reply to the Report, which when approved by the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., should be printed in pamphlet form and circulated. The fact that thousands of Registered Nurses know nothing of this attack upon their professional standards and security makes it imperative that by every means in its power the British College of Nurses, Ltd., should appeal for justice for Registered Nurses and the sick public which they serve.

It was agreed that the Special Committee should meet on Wednesday, October 14th, at the office at 2.30 p.m. to receive recommendations from members, and decide a plan of campaign. If a profession of Nursing was to continue to exist it was realised that publicity was imperative, and that the Horder Committee's policy must be exposed and opposed by every means which conscientious conviction could devise.

The meeting then terminated.

MONEY SPEAKS.

The Editor of this journal begs to report with sincere gratitude that a colleague has offered £50 to open a Defence Fund in support of the campaign—primarily towards the printing of the Reply to the Report of the Reconstruction Committee of the Royal College of Nursing, on the Assistant Nurse.

LIST OF EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTED ON THE NURSING RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING.

1. Queen's Institute of District Nursing.
Mrs. Henry Brooke.
2. British Medical Association.
Dame Janet Campbell, D.B.E., M.D.
3. Medical Superintendents' Society.
Sir Thomas Carey-Evans, M.C.
4. King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, Nursing Recruitment Centre.
Miss M. M. Edwards.
5. National Association of Administrators of Local Government Establishments.
Mrs. H. Ford.
6. British Federation of Business and Professional Women.
Miss C. Haslett, C.B.E.
7. Women Public Health Officers' Association.
Miss D. Hayward.
8. Scottish National Association of Health Visitors.
Miss C. Keachie.
9. Incorporated Association of Hospital Administrators.
F. A. Lyon, B.A.
10. Society of Medical Officers of Health.
T. N. V. Potts, M.D., D.P.H.
11. Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust.
Miss K. Stephenson, C.B.E.
12. Medical Women's Federation.
Dr. Clara Stewart.
13. Local Authorities Nursing Services Joint Committee.
Alderman G. J. Timmis, J.P.
14. Trades Union Congress.
Miss D. Westmacott.
15. British Hospitals Association.
J. P. Wetenhall, B.A.

It will be realised that this is a somewhat formidable list, but as far as we can gather their members are by no means unanimously in favour of the recommendations of the Royal College of Nursing, any more than are the members of the Nurses' Associations represented on the Reconstruction Committee, and we hope they will help us to save our profession from extinction.

The General Nursing Councils for England and Wales, and for Scotland can no longer afford to remain quiescent.

As the former needs at least £1,000 a week from Registered Nurses to carry on its valuable work, not another penny should be accepted from them if it has any intention of putting the policy of the Royal College and the Ministry of Health into practice, a policy which must inevitably result in their professional ruin.

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH SUPPORTS EXPEDIENCY.

As we go to press we have evidence before us, what has long been an open secret, that Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health, intends to promote legislation to provide a Roll of semi-trained Assistant Nurses, whose qualifications do not attain the standard hitherto required for insertion on the Register of Nurses—and that he claims that the compilation of a Roll of Assistant Nurses shall be maintained by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales—a special committee to be set up upon which the semi-trained group shall have representation. The Minister is, however, a little shy of closing the profession of Nursing, and entirely depriving the public of the liberty of action which they have enjoyed since the days of King John!

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