

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE RECRUITMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF NURSES AND MIDWIVES.

Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour and National Service, has appointed a "National Council for the Recruitment and Distribution of Nurses and Midwives."

LIST OF MEMBERS.

Royal College of Nursing.

Miss M. Wenden, Galen House, London Road, Guildford, Surrey.

Miss F. G. Goodall, Royal College of Nursing, Henrietta Place, Cavendish Square, W.1.

Miss F. N. Udell, M.B.E., 40, Melville Street, Edinburgh.

Miss F. E. Frederick, Legal and General First Aid Post, 241, Foots Cray Road, New Eltham, S.E.9.

Association of Hospital Matrons.

Miss Helen Dey, O.B.E., R.R.C., St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.1.

Miss E. Cockayne, Royal Free Hospital, W.C.1.

Trades Union Congress.

Miss D. M. Elliott, O.B.E., National Union of General and Municipal Workers, 5, Endsleigh Gardens, W.C.1.

George Gibson, Esq., Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union, 1, Rushford Avenue, Levenshulme, Manchester 19.

National Association of Local Government Officers.

C. A. W. Roberts, Esq., Manager, Walton Hospital, Liverpool.

King Edward's Hospital Fund, Nursing Recruitment Centre.

Miss M. M. Edwards, Nursing Recruitment Centre, 21, Cavendish Square, W.1.

College of Midwives.

Miss K. V. Coni, Municipal Maternity Home, Hedon Road, Hull.

Joint War Organisation of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

The Countess of Limerick, C.B.E., 14, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.

Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

Miss Wilmshurst, Queen's Institute of District Nursing, 57, Lower Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1.

British Hospitals Association (including one representative of Scottish Voluntary Hospitals).

C. C. Carus Wilson, Esq., St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.1.

J. P. Wetenhall, Esq., British Hospitals' Association, 12, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.

R. Morrison Smith, Esq., Glasgow Royal Infirmary, 135, Buchanan Street, Glasgow, C.1.

Mental Hospitals' Association.

L. T. Feldon, Esq., A.C.I.S., F.H.A., Mental Hospitals' Association, 5, Church Passage, Guildhall, E.C.2.

County Councils Association.

Dr. W. A. Bullough, the County Hall, Chelmsford.

Association of Municipal Corporations.

Alderman Sir George Martin, K.B.E., J.P., Adel Lodge, Adel, Leeds.

London County Council.

W. Allen Daley, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., the County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.E.1.

Association of County Councils in Scotland.

George McLaren, Esq., 1, Crownest Loan, Stenhousemuir.

Counties of Cities Association, Scotland.

Baillie Edward Hunter, City Chambers, Glasgow.

The Secretary of the Council is Mrs. B. A. Bennett, S.R.N., who is the wife of the Secretary of the Battersea General Hospital.

A HINT TO AUTOCRATIC MINISTERS.

"The mind of man has not in it sufficient ballast to enable it to exercise, or endure for long, supreme uncontrolled power. Or, to put it in other words, the human frame is unequal to anything approaching omnipotence. All history from the Caesars onwards teaches us this."—ROSEBERRY: "Napoleon: The Last Phase."

When you are fighting with the minority for professional principles which are of fundamental importance (and it is always the minority which stands with its back to the wall) you may depend upon it that the method of your opponents will be exclusion from representation and power, and thus on the Rushcliffe Committee those in favour of de-grading professional standards were allotted ten votes, and the Royal British Nurses' Association, the first Incorporated Royal Society of Registered Nurses, and the British College of Nurses, Ltd., both in favour of protecting nursing standards already attained only one vote each! Thus quite unjustifiably the Royal College policy of including semi-trained Assistant Nurses on the salary sheet of the Registered Nurses was manœuvred through. As usual, no provision was made for the direct representation of Sisters or Staff Nurses. The same pernicious principle was enforced in the Athlone Committee, and now Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour and National Service, has appointed what he terms "The National Advisory Council for the Recruitment and Distribution of Nurses and Midwives," and he has most pointedly excluded what are known as the free nurses' organisations from any representation whatever. This gives us pause for thought when we realise that the Minister of Labour, a prominent member of the Labour Party, has practically excluded the free organisations of the rank and file of the Nursing profession—the working nurses—from representation on a Government Committee appointed to deal with their life's work and economic status in the body politic, it is a serious matter.

If this is the considered policy of the Labour Party, then God help the underdog should the group of politicians now in power attain office after the war. Such policy spells servitude for the working nurse, and we take the earliest opportunity of protesting against it.

There are signs, however, that we shall not be silenced without expressing our opinions in the Press, and if need be in public meeting assembled.

Apparently, the policy of the Minister of Labour so far as nurses, presumably without power in high places, are concerned, is denial of representation on National Committees, which they help to finance, set up to define and control their lives, their professional duties, their economic conditions, and, in fact, their whole existence.

It will be well for the Minister of Labour to realise that we do not intend to submit to a policy, the despotic standards of which incite the whole nation to arms.

MENTAL TESTING OF CHILDREN.

In a lecture to the Glasgow branch of The Nursery School Association of Great Britain on the mental testing of children of three to seven years old, Mrs. Williams, of the Corporation of Glasgow child guidance clinics, defined intelligence as the power of acquiring intellectual skill and not the amount of skill acquired. This power was inborn and people did not inherit equal amounts of it.

Environment, she said, played an important part as to whether this intellectual power could be stimulated to the full or depressed. One could not yet say what was the most favourable environment, but it was highly probable that a modern nursery school education from the ages of two years to five years constituted a favourable environment for many children.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)