

## REMARKS.

Below we insert the names of the members of the present General Nursing Council for England and Wales, who have agreed to administer the Nurses Act, 1943, without consulting the constituency of Registered Nurses who elect the 16 professional representatives.

As will be seen by the report of the Council's proceedings on May 28th, they have already agreed to spend £100 of the funds subscribed by the Registered Nurses in organising the Roll of semi-trained Assistant Nurses, as provided by Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health, in Rule 19 of the new Nurses Act, which he drafted and thrust through Parliament without a discussion on finance at any stage.

## LIST OF COUNCIL.

- Chairman* : Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D.  
*Vice-Chairman* : Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., Middlesex Hospital, Mortimer Street, W.1.  
 W. R. Brain, Esq., D.M., F.R.C.P., Middlesex County Council.  
 J. H. Buckley, Esq., J.P., 48, Hitchin Road, Arlesey, Beds.  
 Miss A. Burgess, A.R.R.C., Crumpsall Hospital, Manchester.  
 Miss F. M. Campbell, Public Health Department, London County Council.  
 Miss A. Catnach, B.A., Head Mistress, Putney County Secondary School, Mayfield, Barricane, St. John's, Woking.  
 Miss R. A. Cox-Davies, C.B.E., R.R.C., 20, Abbey Road, N.W.8.  
 Miss H. Dey, O.B.E., R.R.C., St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.1.  
 Sir Henry C. Gooch, B.A., LL.B., J.P., c/o Midland Bank, Ltd., Gloucester Road, S.W.7.  
 Miss L. G. Duff-Grant, Royal Infirmary, Manchester.  
 Miss M. Jones, O.B.E., A.R.R.C., Royal Infirmary, Liverpool.  
 Miss D. A. Lane, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.  
 The Countess of Limerick, Chiddingly, West Hoathley, Sussex.  
 Miss E. E. P. MacManus, O.B.E., Guy's Hospital, S.E.1.  
 H. M. C. Macaulay, Esq., B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., Middlesex County Council.  
 Miss M. E. G. Milne, St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, W.2.  
 R. J. Ousby, Esq., 140, Broad Lane, West Derby, Liverpool, 11.  
 Miss E. C. Pearce, Roxley Court, Letchworth, Herts.  
 Professor Ralph N. F. Picken, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Department of Preventive Medicine, Welsh National School of Medicine, The Parade, Cardiff.  
 W. Rees Thomas, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.M., Board of Control.  
 H. M. Walton, Esq., M.A., Secretary to the Middlesex Local Education Authority.  
 Miss K. C. Watt, C.B.E., R.R.C., Ministry of Health.  
 Miss K. M. Willis, L.C.C. Hospital, Caterham, Surrey.

## THE NURSES ACT, 1943.

Power is always insolent and despotic : whether exercised in throwing its opposers into a bastille ; burning them at the stake ; torturing them on the rack ; beheading them with a guillotine ; or taking them off, as at the massacre of St. Bartholomew, at a general sweep. When the will of man is raised above law, it is always tyranny and despotism, whether it is the will of a bashaw or of bastard patriots.—NOAH WEBSTER (died May, 28th, 1843).

## A STATE MEDICAL SERVICE.

## "IN THE DISCARD."

In the furtherance of his scheme for a State Medical Service, Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health, has been unable to act secretly and swiftly, as he has done in degrading and controlling the Nursing Profession. It will be remembered that a representative medical committee was authorised to enter into non-committal discussions with the Minister of Health on the question of a comprehensive medical service, and its first report recently appeared in the *British Medical Journal* and the *Lancet*.

The report states that in the past two months discussions have been proceeding and the Ministry put forward certain tentative proposals for a comprehensive medical service based on "modified central and local administration and the employment of doctors as salaried officers, mainly whole-time, by a new type of local authority."

The committee, considering that further discussion on the basis of such proposals would be unfruitful, met the Minister and the Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary representing the Secretary of State for Scotland on May 17.

"The representative committee made it plain that, though not empowered to commit the medical profession, it believed that such proposals would be contrary to the public interest and unacceptable to the great majority of the profession, and sought their withdrawal."

"The Minister, in reply, stated that the only Government commitment on the subject of a comprehensive health service was that outlined by Sir John Anderson in the debate on the Beveridge Report in the House of Commons in February. The Government was not committed as yet to any particular form of medical service, and the Ministry proposals in question were put forward only as a basis of discussion."

"He agreed to regard these proposals as 'in the discard,' and to a re-examination of the whole position. He stated that, after further full consultation with the representative committee and other bodies with whom discussions had been taking place, he would proceed to express his conclusions in the form of a White Paper, which would then be open for consideration and discussion by the public and the medical profession before final decision by Parliament."

"He was not bound by any time-table in relation to the issue of a White Paper. He had not made up his mind, and he did not wish that the proposals already put forward should be regarded as in any way prejudicing the issue of a White Paper, the form and substance of which had not been decided."

"These assurances were accepted by the representative committee, which decided to continue the non-committal discussions with the Ministry. The discussions will accordingly go forward on the basis of these assurances."

## IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords discussed the proposals of the Beveridge Report affecting medical services on June 1st, and concern was expressed about the Government's intentions towards the medical profession.

Speaking as a layman, Lord Derwent, who opened the debate, declared that if the medical profession was to be turned into salaried functionaries, an honourable profession would be de-graded and the ordinary citizen would not get a square deal.

Lord Dawson of Penn complained that the Government had introduced, in the proposals for the medical service, a spirit of haste and hustle, and that they were expecting the whole medical profession to be turned round in six weeks. He admitted that the conception of a comprehensive

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)