

R. F. Lumsden (Hon. Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen).
 Henrietta C. Poole (Nursing Superintendent, Adelaide Hospital, Dublin).
 Gertrude A. Rogers (Lady Superintendent of the Leicester Infirmary).
 Georgina Scott (Lady Superintendent of the Sussex County Hospital).
 Maud G. Smith (Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Bristol).
 Catherine J. Wood (late Lady Superintendent of the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street).

To have been acclaimed "Trusty and Well-beloved" by the great Queen Victoria is in our estimation no mean honour. Alas! of the 30 men and women Signatories to the Royal Charter granted to the Royal British Nurses' Association, all have passed away with the exception of the writer of this item of nursing history.

THE COMING ELECTION OF THE G.N.C.

EXPENDITURE OF THE REGISTERED NURSES' FEES ON THE ORGANISATION OF THE ASSISTANT NURSES' ROLL.

Before recording a vote for Applicants at the coming Election of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales we advise nurses to enquire from applicants if they will support the just demand of Registered Nurses that Rule 19, Part III of the Nurses Act, 1943, shall be amended so that the Registered Nurses' fees shall not be expended on the organisation of the Assistant Nurses' Roll, as provided in this most unjust Regulation.

It will be remembered that when the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, was agreed, it was to be self-supporting, no financial support whatever being allowed by Parliament, and that the Registered Nurses have supported that Act to date to close on a *million pounds*.

It will also be remembered that when the late Minister of Health, Mr. Ernest Brown, M.P., confidentially drafted the Nurses Act, in 1943, he provided that all fees should be pooled, thus compelling Registered Nurses to pay any deficit in the organisation of the Assistant Nurses' Roll which, without our own consent, we have been compelled to do since the passing of the Ernest Brown-cum-Ernest Bevin Act in 1943. Moreover, when Mr. Ernest Brown, in presenting his Bill, came to Rule 4, he hurriedly remarked: "I need not trouble the House with Clause 4 except to say that it deals with the necessary fees," with the result that there was no debate on this most important financial innovation. In Part III, under the heading "Miscellaneous and General" the Act provides:

Regulation 19 provides:—

19. Any sums received by the Council by way of fees under this Act shall be dealt with by the Council as if they had been fees and received by way of fees under the principal Act and any expenses incurred by the Council in carrying Parts I and III of this Act into effect including expenses in connection with examinations or prosecutions and any travelling expenses or subsistence allowance (duly allowed to members of the Committee) shall be defrayed out of fees received by the Council.

Rule 19 thus provides that any deficit in the organisation of the Assistant Nurses, including legal expenses

through misdemeanour, must be paid, if necessary, by the Registered Nurses—nothing could be more outrageously unjust.

If applicants for seats on the new General Nursing Council are not prepared to advocate justice to Registered Nurses, then Registered Nurses *should not vote for their election*.

Rule 19 must be eliminated from the Nurses Act, 1943, or we agree to be treated as serfs.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Miss S. A. Villiers, S.R.N., J.P., Hon. Secretary of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, has addressed the following letter to the Presidents of the 50 affiliated organisations which constitute the National Council. Miss Villiers, as Hon. Treasurer of the organisation, has had the accounts carefully audited annually, and the surplus invested, a copy of which has been sent to each constituent organisation. Invested funds now amount to the sum of £1,533.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

To THE PRESIDENT:

October, 1944.

DEAR MADAM,—You are aware that it was agreed that the activities of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain should be suspended for a time during the War—thus we have had no meetings for several years, since March, 1940.

The elected members' term of office on the Council has now expired, but according to the constitution the Presidents of Affiliated Associations who form the Executive Committee are *ex-officio* officers, and it would appear therefore that before taking further action these members of the Executive Committee should be consulted.

I shall therefore be obliged if you will be good enough to inform me who is the President of and if you consider it advisable, to call a consultative meeting and take considered action.—I am,

Yours sincerely,

SUSAN A. VILLIERS, *Hon. Secretary*.

We are informed that the replies being received are mostly in favour of a consultative meeting being held—it being understood that no new Constitution should be recommended in the absence of so many Registered Nurses serving their country on active service abroad.

NEW EDITOR OF THE "LANCET."

It is reported in the *Times* that the proprietors of the *Lancet* have appointed a new Editor and Assistant Editor. Dr. Egbert Morland is retiring from the staff, which he joined in 1915. He became Editor in 1937, and has done sterling work in maintaining the world-wide high reputation of the oldest medical journal in this country.

He is succeeded by Dr. T. F. Fox, who will be the seventh editor since the periodical was first published in 1823. Dr. Fox, who is 44 years of age, received his medical education at Cambridge and the London Hospital. He has spent three years in the R.A.M.C. in this war. Dr. E. Clayton-Jones will be the Assistant Editor.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)