

in his official capacity, have not been carefully considered by him or their significance realised.

Regulation 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943, is a grave breach of faith with Registered Nurses. Couched in ambiguous terms, it pools their fees with those of unqualified and semi-trained Assistant Nurses and compels highly qualified Registered Nurses, contrary to their professional conscience, to promote the de-grading of the professional standards they consider safe in the nursing of the sick.

The Minister of Health is not a medical or nursing expert. It is not surprising, therefore, that Regulation 19, which his predecessor drafted has not impressed him with its injustice, or that with the enormous range of his office, dealing as it does with the health of the nation, nursing has not impressed him with its vital importance. Nor is it surprising that the struggle for efficiency in the Nursing Profession is unknown to him.

Be it known that after a 30-years' struggle, which cost its promoters £20,000, Parliament passed the Nurses Registration Act, 1919, containing the proviso that the whole cost of administration should be paid by the nurses registered. This expenditure has been honourably met by them for the past quarter of a century, amounting to close on one million pounds.

Act, 1943, without their knowledge or consent, has given the General Nursing Council for England and Wales power, if necessary, to use their fees in the organisation of the Assistant Nurses' Roll, including the use of their Headquarters for which they have paid.

We invite the Minister of Health to acquaint himself with this page of nursing history and to realise that until this unconstitutional provision is rectified by Parliament there can be no cessation of the demand for justice.

#### THIS IS NOT THE POINT.

Mr. Willink states that he knows of no injustice in this matter—and that he knows the intention of the General Nursing Council to be that the part of their work relating to the enrolment of assistant nurses shall be financially self-supporting. We venture to state most emphatically that this is not the point.

What the Registered Nurses most strongly resent is the power given by Parliament in the 1943 Act, to the General Nursing Council to pool their fees without their consent for the benefit of unqualified and semi-trained persons, whose standard of knowledge and skill de-grades that of the Registered Nurse, and is a danger to the sick. *The General Nursing Council has no right to such power.* The fees paid by the Registered Nurses should alone be expended for the purposes for which they are paid, and it is adding insult to injury to use them for any other purpose.

The Registered Nurses are called upon to pay £5 5s. 0d. for Examination and Registration—their semi-trained competitors are to enjoy the privilege of legal status for One Guinea—and under Regulation 19 the General Nursing Council may make good any deficit by spending our money for the purpose.

We call upon the Minister of Health to have Regulation 19 amended without delay. We do not intend to submit to it without protest.

#### GROWING INHUMANITY OF THE WAR.

Miss L. L. Dock, R.N., who we all know as a sincere humanitarian, is deeply shocked at the growing inhumanity of the War. She writes: "The war grows more horrible every day, those new bombs falling on England. How you all bear it so quietly. . ."

It is rather amazing, but facing death from hour to hour becomes a habit!

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES LTD.

We reported in our last issue that congratulations had been sent to our great Prime Minister on his 70th birthday, and now with sincere pleasure we are able to report that he has been good enough to acknowledge our goodwill in the following little letter:—

"10, Downing Street,  
Whitehall.

"Thank you so much for your kind remembrance on my birthday.

WINSTON S. CHURCHILL.  
December, 1944."

This letter has been placed in the archives of the History Section of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., and will be greatly valued by those Registered Nurses who form its membership.

#### MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council of the College will meet on Thursday, January 25th, at 2.30 p.m.

The most important business will be to consider action concerning Regulation 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943, empowering the General Nursing Council to use money subscribed by the Registered Nurses in the organisation of the Assistant Nurses' Roll should their inadequate fee of £1 ls. fail to meet their expenses—which is inevitable according to necessary items of annual expenditure as follows:—

Rent.	Telephone.
Rates and Taxes.	Telegrams.
Equipment.	Postage.
Repairs and Renewals.	Printing.
Insurance.	Tuition.
Water.	Examination.
Light.	Inspectors.
Heat.	Compiling and printing the Roll.
Laundry.	First-class travelling expenses
Wear and tear.	for eleven persons to attend
Clerical service.	meetings of the Assistant
Domestic service.	Nurses' Committee.
Audit Fees.	Subsistence allowance for eleven
	persons.

## THE PASSING BELL.

#### MRS. WALTER SPENCER.

It is with sincere sorrow that we record the death of Mrs. Walter Spencer, one-time Sister at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, who passed to her rest, aged 91 years, on December 29th last, at Chapel House, Ealing, W.5.

Born Elizabeth Charlton, she trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in the eighties of the last century, and was distinguished as one of the most devoted members of its nursing staff as Sister. Later she married the late Mr. Walter Spencer, the well-known surgeon on the staff of Westminster Hospital, and her beautiful home in Portland Place, W., became a centre of professional organization in support of legal status for members of the nursing profession, using all her influence in support of the demand for State Registration of Nurses. She also took an active part in the organisation of the International Council of Nurses; indeed, her intelligent and enthusiastic support of nursing progress, leaves Registered Nurses of to-day deeply in her debt. Indeed, as these great women pass on, our profession is indeed the poorer.

To Mr. Walter Spencer, her only son, we offer sincere sympathy for the loss of such a mother.

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