

To allow the Society, therefore, to be in any way under the control of the War Office is to strangle it, and to open a fresh field for patronage, favouritism, red-tape, and inefficiency. Handing the control of the National Aid Society, to a joint Committee of three bodies, means, Mr. Burgess holds, that two of them want to get hold of its money. One of these societies is, he says, a Court and Society affair, with a title and decoration attached, and the Herald's College in the background; the other is a department notorious for mis-management, extravagance, and the worst evils of bureaucracy. He concludes by hoping that until the Society reverts to its constitution as a public institution, until a satisfactory account has been rendered of the expenditure of the accumulated balance from 1871, and until the committee has passed a resolution binding itself to preserve the independence of the National Aid Society, and to keep faith with its members and with the public, that no one will give a penny more to its funds.

A question which seems to us to be of primary importance, and one demanding an explanation is, if the Red Cross Society becomes a subordinate department of the War Office, how is it to fulfil its duties as part of an international organization? The British Red Cross Society, is, we are informed by the Secretary, affiliated to the International Red Cross Society. This being the case, it must owe allegiance to the Central Society, and be bound by international regulations. Do these permit a national society to place itself in the position now occupied by the British Red Cross Society in relation to the War Office? Further, will the War Office assist the Red Cross Society in organizing aid to the sick and wounded amongst the Boers, or will the society help only our own troops? The fundamental idea of the Red Cross is that its members shall render assistance to the sick and wounded wherever they are found, without distinction, and care for the enemy in exactly the same way as for the sick and wounded of its own nation. We hear of a hospital ship for the benefit of British soldiers; but, so far, we hear of no organization for rendering aid to the wounded Boers. Yet the British Red Cross Society cannot be true to its foundation principles, unless it renders equal assistance to both sides. Whether it is prepared to do this, is the question which its supporters should ask.

### Annotations.

#### OWEN'S COLLEGE, MANCHESTER.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Court of Governors of Owen's College, Manchester, held last week, the Council of the College presented an important resolution on the subject of women students. The Victoria University has the power to grant degrees to persons of either sex, but so far none of its affiliated colleges have afforded facilities for the education of women medical students. Women have however recently applied for admission to the Manchester Medical School, and the result has been that the Council of the College have instituted inquiries as to the practicability of instituting such a course. Information obtained from British Medical Schools which admit both men and women, together with the views of the professors and lecturers of the Medical Department of the College was laid before the Court of Governors. After considering this it was proposed by Sir Ughtred Kay Shuttleworth, and seconded by Dr. Ward, that women should be admitted to the advantages of the medical school, subject to such arrangements as the Council should make for teaching some subjects in separate classes and rooms. A separate dissecting room should also be opened for women. Some opposition was offered, but the resolution was ultimately carried by a large majority. We congratulate the Council of Owen's College on their just decision.

The time is gone by when a sex qualification should be necessary for any position, and, in the case of the profession of medicine, women have so amply proved their qualifications for the position, which in the face of great difficulties they have made for themselves, that he would be a bold person who ventured to question their right to enter it. This being so, medical schools should certainly afford women facilities for obtaining the necessary knowledge.

#### A REASONABLE "QUID PRO QUO."

THE Governors of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, are still concerned as to the financial condition of the institution, and there is serious talk of closing a ward. Another suggestion for replenishing the coffers of the hospital is to increase the fees paid by the probationers for training. Mr. Barker, in advising this course, said that they had more applications for vacancies than there were vacancies to fill. If the demand was greater

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