

brigades, with the habit of passing on patients from one hospital to another in this country, and the strong objection evinced to receiving moribund patients. Expedients for prolonging the voluntary system were failing, and municipalization must come.

Certainly of recent years there are signs that municipalization of our hospitals is within measurable distance. This is due largely to the exclusion of women from the governing bodies of these institutions. Women have contributed generously to their support, there are many points in connection with their management which can be best appreciated and dealt with by women, and public spirited, and able women are beginning more and more to realize the justice, and the necessity, for such representation, consequently if they cannot obtain it without municipalization, this system of management of our hospitals will secure their strong and united support. It is time that women organized effectively to secure their share in the management of public bodies, from which they are increasingly being excluded, or are deprived of representation which they have already gained, as the following instances show:—

#### THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR NURSES.

This society was founded with the offering made by women, on the instance of a woman, Mrs. Fenwick Miller, to the Queen on the occasion of her Jubilee, yet this great charity, controlling a work so essentially feminine as the nursing of the sick poor in their own homes, and founded by women in honour of a woman, is practically managed by a male committee, and has, for its President, not a woman, as might reasonably be supposed, but a clergyman of the Established Church. The consequence is that the qualification of nurses accepted by the Queen's Jubilee Committee in this country is inferior to that demanded by the nurse training schools of repute, which do not guarantee their nurses as efficiently trained under a term of three years practical work in the wards, a standard which is required by the Government Services.

#### THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

This again is a Society founded by women for the benefit of women. In this case the wrong done to women is peculiarly cruel because under the original Bye-laws granted by the Privy Council to the members, the nurses had liberal powers of self-government, but, owing

to the action taken by the medical members these Bye-laws have now been repealed and new ones passed which deprive the nurse-members of powers which they formerly possessed. It is noteworthy also that in this Nurses' Association, out of 40 Hon. Officers 37 are medical men, and only three nurses.

#### THE NATIONAL PENSION FUND.

The contributors to this Fund, presumably women nurses, have subscribed £400,000 for its support, yet of all the women who have contributed this sum not one is to be found on the Council. This large amount, subscribed by women, is manipulated entirely by men.

#### THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Here again the interests of women have been sacrificed. Although well qualified and capable women were returned by the ratepayers, by an overwhelming majority, to represent their interests, yet, upon the instance of a foreign Jew, they were ejected from the positions which they were elected to fill.

#### LONDON LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The reactionary step taken by the Government upon the dictation of the House of Lords, depriving women of their existing rights on the Metropolitan Vestries, is still fresh in the public mind—and the fact that the lordlings of the Turf Club were whipped up to secure a majority to deprive the London poor of the help and sympathy of women in its local government, is a convincing proof of the danger to the liberty of the people of an hereditary veto.

#### MALE MONOPOLY.

It will thus be seen that men are monopolizing the government of public institutions and women's associations on all sides. We need only point to the fact that the sewing parties organized in connection with the Central British Red Cross Committee are being arranged by men to emphasize the ridiculous position in which men are placed when they assume the monopoly of the management of public affairs.

The hand which wields the sword must men say control the ship of State—we do not see the force of the argument—but when it comes to meddling monopolisation of the "needle," it is time to point out the absurdity of the situation—and it is not only men who appear ridiculous. The weakness of women is primarily to blame for their undignified position in the body politic.

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