

Tricky Journalism.

The conspiracy of silence of several lay-edited so-called nursing papers, on the danger to the nursing profession embodied in the Memorandum of the Financiers' Scheme for its absolute control, is exemplified most emphatically in the tricky conduct of the affair in Sir Henry Burdett's organ.

First of all he gave unqualified support to this autocratic and unprofessional scheme without publishing its Articles of Association, using what power he possesses to induce ignorant nurses to support what he termed the "Rothschild Platform," a platform from which we are pleased to note Lord Rothschild has now retired.

Now that the nursing profession at large has shown its acumen in fighting the ill-considered scheme, and has impressed the Board of Trade with its determination to oppose unjust control by persons ignorant of its professional needs, the official reply of the Board of Trade is so perverted by Sir Henry Burdett that his readers are not informed of its true significance.

The official statement sent by the Board of Trade to the officials of the protesting Medical and Nursing Societies is as follows:—"Since the hearing of objections on May 5th a request has been received by the Board of Trade from the promoters of the proposed Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses, that the consideration of their application by the Board of Trade should be deferred *until the Bills now before Parliament for the Registration of Nurses have been disposed of*. The consideration of the application will accordingly stand over."

This reply was published in our issue of June 10th last. A fortnight later, under the heading "The Incorporated Society for the Higher Education of Nurses," Sir Henry Burdett published the following statement, which is either the result of woeful ignorance or intentional perversion—in either instance inexcusable from a journalistic standpoint:—"The Board of Trade, at the request of the promoters, have delayed giving their decision on the application of the above Society for a licence *pending the report of the Parliamentary Committee on the Registration of Nurses now sitting*."

The significance of this tricky and incorrect statement is at once apparent. The Bills before Parliament "when disposed of" will dispose of the whole question, as they provide for a Central Nursing Council to carry out legally the duties of organising, educationally and otherwise, the whole nursing profession. When this is done Sir Henry Burdett and his friends can no further meddle therein. Thus the reply from the Board of Trade

is eminently satisfactory, and politely shelves the laymen's petition to govern a body of professional women.

But twisted and perverted as the reply from the Board of Trade is by Sir Henry Burdett, it is intended to convey to his unfortunate readers that after August 1st next, by which date the Select Committee on Nursing must report its conclusions to the House of Commons, it will be open to the Board of Trade to again consider the Financiers' application, which is not the truth.

Nothing can be more reprehensible upon the part of an editor than to deliberately mislead his readers. We therefore call upon Sir Henry Burdett to print in his next issue the official reply from the Board of Trade, and to apologise to the nursing profession at large for printing an absolutely incorrect statement on this important question.

Nurses Wanted in Athens.

There are vacancies for two surgical nurses in a private nursing home in Athens. The conditions are a two years' contract, a salary of £35 per annum, and travelling expenses are refunded on arrival. In the event of unsuitability on either side the engagement may be terminated by one month's notice. Should the two years' contract be fulfilled, travelling expenses back to England will be paid. Preference will be given to nurses speaking French. We are informed that the Home is comfortable and the food good. The nurses appointed would share a bedroom. The Home is under the patronage of H.R.H. Princess Sophia, Crown Princess of Greece. Will any nurse desirous of applying communicate with Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.

Presentations.

As the result of the Testimonial Fund for Mrs. McIntyre, late Matron of Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest for Nurses at Brighton, a cheque for £82 has been handed to her by the honorary treasurer of the Fund.

Miss Elsie King, who during the last four years has received her training at the Ipswich Workhouse, was, on leaving the institution to take up work at the Camberwell Infirmary, presented with a handsome gold bracelet, the donors being the Master and Matron and the staff generally. The presentation was made on behalf of the subscribers by the medical officer, Mr. J. H. Staddon, who spoke in high terms of Miss King's work. She had, he said, won the esteem of the officers and staff, and the affection and confidence of the inmates. These remarks were cordially endorsed by the Master.

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