

lead pencil "made in Germany"—and she was often laughed at for her peculiarity. In promoting butter factories in Britain, there was much prejudice to be overcome. In Scotland, where she believed farmers were more thrifty than in England, they were averse to innovations. On a visit to a farmhouse, she had been in a place where a lady was giving lessons on butter making, and the lady she (Miss Stewart) was visiting allowed her dairymaids to attend the classes, but remarked on the futility of the whole thing, "Just as though," she said, "dairymaids would take the trouble to use thermometers," not seeing, apparently, that it was the duty of someone to see that they *did* use thermometers. Much as she upheld co-operation, she had great faith in personal endeavour. "Many a mickle makes a muckle," and it was the duty of everyone who feels on this question to resolve to buy English goods, and not to leave it to Co-operations.

Miss H. Kenealy asked if Mrs. Tweedie was able to say if the system of technical instruction in Holland and Denmark took part in the training of people in the best methods of cattle rearing, butter making, &c., and if there was any particular method for maintaining the standard of excellence attributed to their products. It is customary to find the skill of the foreigner—the Swiss, French, and German—in artistic and other work traced to the long-established working of their schemes of technical instruction. It would be of importance and interest to know if a similar explanation were given for the excellence of butter making in Denmark. Miss Kenealy also asked if the butter factories were formed in small villages, or only found practicable in large villages and towns.

Miss Spencer asked if the high wages demanded by employes in England would not always make English produce more expensive than foreign produce?

Mrs. Tweedie, in reply, was not able to say if the system of technical instruction in Denmark dealt with the subject of butter making, but the butter factories were the outcome of the private enterprise of the farmers, and did not receive State support or grants of money. Prizes were given by the State for butter adjudged the best of samples. Taken without previous warning from the different factories, the money value of the prizes was so small that it was only the honour of receiving such a prize that was valued. The commercial success attending the uniform excellence of the butter was enough inducement to the factories to keep up the standard. With regard to factories in villages, the several farmers combined together to provide the required funds—some £200—to start a factory, and then each supplied milk or cream for manufacture, being credited according to the quality of the cream. Similar butter factories have been started in Ireland on the same plan, and, notably in Kerry, are working with success. Mrs. Tweedie did not believe that the wages asked by English employes would interfere with the success of butter factories in England. The cost of the production would be minimised, machinery and labour completely utilised, and the system was economical. The whole principle involved in the Women's Produce League is to encourage home manufacture of home-consumed products, and also to further the industrial employment of women.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to Mrs. Tweedie and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; after which, tea and coffee was served in the library.

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



THE lists of the proposed new General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association will be, next week, in the hands of the members, who will have no difficulty, now the key of explanation has been given, in deciphering for themselves the present situation. To sign the Council sheet as it now stands is practically to hand over the government of the Nurses'

Association to one or two officials, who have so "packed" the new Council with the representatives of two Hospitals—the Middlesex, and the Chelsea Infirmary—that they will probably be able to carry the vote on all occasions, in the Governing Body of the Corporation, whatever may be the opinion or wishes of the thousands of members belonging to other larger, and vastly more important, Institutions.

We have no word to say against these Nurses who have been selected. We have no personal knowledge of them, and we have no doubt that they are *individually* well qualified to hold places on the Council. But *collectively* they represent an unconstitutional and absolutely unjustifiable principle. Their votes alone could carry almost any resolution proposed at a Council Meeting, and, moreover, they can always, from their presence in London, be brought up to attend these meetings. And their votes are not, and cannot be, representative of the general body of the Association. They represent only two out of the hundreds of Training Schools which are entitled to have a voice in the management of the Nurses' Association. The very fact that it has been deemed necessary to form a new Council by the process of "packing" is in itself a palpable proof that the motives of the officials who would take such a step are not in the best interests of the Association. Were everything straightforward, honourable, and well-intentioned, the Council would have been formed in the usual manner, with fair and equitable representation given to each Training School. The fact that "lobbying" and wire-pulling has been resorted to, is in itself a stronger proof than anything we could write, that the Association is on the downward path; and, in the eyes of the world, every Nurse who signs her name to the list of such a "packed" Council is acquiescing in a transaction which is discreditable; she is helping to create a precedent which may in future be even more injurious to Nurses and their Association than is the present move. The English people have strong feelings in favour of freedom and fair play, and, although they are in many ways long-suffering, they will not permit any infringement of these principles. For that reason, "rings" and cliques have hitherto never achieved success in our national life. But in the Royal British Nurses' Association a "ring" of a novel kind is now being attempted by the packing of the General Council from the Nurses of two Hospitals, who, even if they cannot be coerced into voting "the right way," can be "influenced" very strongly in the direction it suits the promoters of this clique to move. The only straightforward way to meet this unwarrantable proceeding is for every member of the Association who is entitled to vote for the General Council, to erase all the

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