

and then you must be careful—if you have a red one, it will be regarded by the Doctor as a distinct encroachment of the statutory rights of a down-trodden profession; and if you have a blue one, people will think you are a police station. I foresee that your paths are strewn with difficulties.

At the risk of being considered impertinent, I venture to offer a few words of advice: close your ranks and reconcile your factions. In an interview recently, a prominent Government official expressed the opinion that it was useless to hope for any qualification or registration for nurses while the present divided condition prevails.

Surely the differences are not so great but that they may be healed by a little mutual concession. We should remember that internal quarrels weaken any cause, and provided that nurses are true to themselves, and to their leaders, and make up their minds to work harmoniously with the Medical Profession, our interests, which are one and the same, must prosper. It is only by our divisions that the lay element by working us off one against the other contrives to keep all real power in its hands. The Government of Hospitals and Institutions by laymen, with the attendant discomforts for us, will cease the moment we decide to have done with it. The exploitation of the nursing movement by laymen which has resulted in no benefit whatever to you, but which has aggrandised and knighted the man who was smart enough to observe and profit by your weaknesses is a standing disgrace to your lack of organization. You have leaders of undoubted merit, follow them and support them loyally—you are sufficiently powerful to obtain anything which you can reasonably demand. We meet here and we talk, we discuss, and pass or reject resolutions, and we imagine we are furthering the cause upon which we have set our hearts, but we are doing nothing of the sort; the general public knows nothing of it and cares less. We require legislation; the only way to get it is to worry Members of Parliament; they care nothing for us or our grievances, but they *do* care for their seats, and the only way to approach them is through their constituencies. Some of you, I know, think that you are entitled to the Franchise. I am not prepared to further incur your anger by discussing the point with you, but you have fathers, brothers and other male encumbrances whom you can stir up to worry the Member of the Division in which they live, and no Member of Parliament is insensible to the meaning of a hundred or so voters requesting him to do a certain thing.

I am afraid I have wandered somewhat from

the lines of the discussion, but there is no subject nearer my heart than the welfare of the nursing branch of the Medical Profession. I have endeavoured to show that I am thoroughly in sympathy with a reasonable scheme of registration, and I believe the great mass of Practitioners would favourably receive the idea.

I sincerely hope that your wishes will be accomplished in the near future, and that by its means your prosperity will be increased, and that it will tend to multiply and rivet the bonds of common interests which unite the Medical and Nursing Professions.

As this paper was followed by two others on the same subject, from the points of view of a trained nurse and a member of the public, the discussion on all three took place at the end of the last paper, after which it will, therefore, appear.

### A Corps of Volunteer Female Nurses

For Service in the Army Hospitals in the Field  
with Suggestions as to the Incorporation of  
the Nursing Profession.

By Surgeon-Major G. J. H. EVATT, M.D.,  
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(Continued from page 96.)

#### INDIRECT RESULTS OF THE FORMATION OF PROPOSED VOLUNTEER NURSES CORPS.

It seems at first sight that the formation of such a Corps as I propose above, is purely for a Military Reserve for War; in point of fact it is far more than this. It is, I think, the first definite attempt to incorporate the Nursing Profession. That profession is clearly evolving itself out of the old disorder and chaos of untrained attendance on the sick.

But up to the present date the Nursing Profession has never been taught to incorporate itself, to undertake its own self-government, to endeavour to work its own future, to expel unworthy members from its ranks, to define its curriculum of training, to found a Diploma or Certificate of Efficiency, or to form a Pension Fund. But all these steps follow logically from the lines I have laid down. Let us examine them in order.

(A.) *Diploma*.—No defined Diploma in Nursing, everywhere acknowledged, now exists. It is quite possible for the Corps now proposed to be founded, to draw up through its Council, such a Diploma. It would require a curriculum of service at a Hospital and a written and *viva voce* examination. Various classes of Certificates could be founded.

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