

### An Influential Protest.

It is with pleasure that we publish by request the following letter, in which the Matrons of important county hospitals and nursing institutions enter their protest against the proposed incorporation of the Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses. It is an excellent statement of the case of the opposition, and we congratulate the signatories on their professional and public conscience:—

MADAM,—We should be much obliged if you would allow us through the columns of your journal to draw the general attention of the public to an extraordinary scheme for placing the control of our profession under the management of a self-constituted body of laymen. It is long since the nursing profession realised that some kind of professional control was needed for the proper guidance and management of the very large and important body of nurses in the United Kingdom, and after various schemes had been brought forward two Bills for the State Registration of Nurses were presented at the instigation of important nursing bodies for the consideration of Parliament last Session. Both these Bills, though differing in details, grant the full control of the nursing profession to medical men and nurses, with direct representation of the nurses themselves, giving the control therefore to those most immediately concerned. A Select Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to take evidence on the question, which Committee, not having concluded its investigations, will continue during the Session which has just begun. The whole question is therefore *sub judice* and before Parliament.

In the meantime, it is difficult to understand why a small body of laymen are applying to the Board of Trade to be incorporated as "The Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses," with the avowed intention of supervising the education and training of nurses, of settling which hospitals should be recognised as training-schools, and, what is perhaps the most dangerous of all, of keeping a register of nurses whom they consider proficient, with the power of removing their names when they think fit. We, madam, who are trained nurses, hold the firm belief that such powers affecting our status should be entrusted only to professional people, and that only those who are professionally conversant with the needs and requirements of the public as regards nurses are capable of deciding as to their education and organisation and of pronouncing as to the fitness or otherwise of training-schools, and we protest most strongly against any scheme placing the control of nurses in the hands of untrained laymen, however eminent and philanthropic. Further, we are convinced that no body of workers can be safe who are not directly represented on any governing council existing for their control. All workers have a right to representation in the management of their own affairs.—We are, Madam, your obedient servants,

SYBIL AIRY, R.R.C., Matron, Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth.

E. CARPENTER-TURNER, Matron, Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester.

- J. DUNCAN, Superintendent, Nottingham and Notts Private Nursing Association.  
 MAY DEANE, Matron, East Suffolk Hospital, Ipswich.  
 ELLEN FRANCES DWIGHT, Superintendent of Nurses, Bagthorpe Infirmary, Nottingham.  
 CHRISTINA FORREST, late Matron, York County Hospital; late Sister, Guy's Hospital; Matron, the Victoria and Bournemouth Nursing Institute.  
 HELEN C. HILL, Matron, Hahnemann Home, Bournemouth.  
 GERTRUDE KNIGHT, Matron, General Hospital, Nottingham.  
 M. MOLLETT, Matron, Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital.  
 K. MAUDE MOORE, Matron, Nottingham Children's Hospital.  
 G. A. ROGERS, Matron, Leicester Infirmary and Children's Hospital.  
 ELIZABETH FAWCETT ROSS, County Superintendent Notts Nursing Association.  
 GEORGINA SCOTT, Late Matron, Sussex County Hospital.  
 MARGARET DE H. SPITAL, Matron, Charnwood Forest Convalescent Home, Loughborough.  
 KATHERINE SCOTT, Matron, Sussex County Hospital.  
 HELEN TODD, Matron, National Sanatorium, Bournemouth.  
 HELEN T. WALLACE, Matron, City Isolation Hospital, Bagthorpe, Nottingham.

### Idle Thoughts of an Idle Matron.

The air is charged with electricity, with wars and rumours of wars, protests and schemes and petitions. I also protested, being roused from my usual indolence for the purpose, and my feelings have been much hurt. Like all my fellow creatures, I have my little vanities, and the one literary gift on which I pride myself, is my correct use of the few adjectives in which I indulge. I described the Board of Trade petition as a voluminous travesty of the Registration Bill; now "voluminous" struck me as a singularly appropriate adjective to apply to a document of some hundred and odd clauses, and I was duly irritated on discovering that I was reported to have said "calumnious"—which is nonsense. However, perhaps, I shall survive. [N.B.—Let it not be thought that Miss Mollett was so reported in *this* journal. We noted the error and sympathised with the speaker.—Ed.]

But it is a pity everyone does not see everything from the same point of view, and that one cannot get a body of men and women to discuss any matter and to agree on every point. Heaven has ordained that "every child that is born alive is either a little Liberal or else a little Conservative"—and is bound, when grown up, to give vent to the views with which it was born.

*Appropos* of meetings, my Assistant Matron has a grievance, like the rest of us. As long ago as the

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