

by my co-signatories to say that the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the proposed society are still under the consideration of the Board of Trade, and have not, therefore, yet been circulated to the public Press, but that, when the decision of the Board of Trade is known, they will be glad to supply you with a copy for the information of your readers.—I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully, H. COSMO BONSOR.

"Our readers" being largely composed of nurses whose interests would be vitally effected by the "decision of the Board of Trade," we felt compelled to reply to Mr. Cosmo Bonsor in the following terms:—

20, Upper Wimpole Street,  
February 4th, 1905.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of February 2nd, in which you state that until the decision of the Board of Trade is known to the signatories concerning the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the proposed Society for the Higher Education and Training of Nurses the document cannot be circulated to the public press.

As a trained nurse, and late Matron of one of the principal metropolitan hospitals (St. Bartholomew's), may I be permitted to inform you that I consider the methods adopted by the organisers of this proposed Society in applying to the Board of Trade for incorporation without consulting the nursing profession at large, reprehensible in the highest degree, and, moreover, after studying the Memorandum, I am of opinion that the provisions are so dangerous to the personal liberties of the nurses of this kingdom, that we shall be compelled to use every justifiable method in protecting ourselves against the monopoly of authority over us by an unrepresentative and unprofessional company.—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

ETHEL G. FENWICK,  
Editor BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

We thereupon published the Memorandum in full in our issue of February 11th, with the instant result that from all over the kingdom condemnation of the scheme was expressed by trained nurses—expressions of opinion which would have been avoided had the signatories before drafting their Memorandum consulted those concerned.

The *American Journal of Nursing*, referring in part to the Financiers' Scheme, says:—"Surely with so many wealthy and distinguished gentlemen concerning themselves about nursing education on both sides of the Atlantic the nursing profession must either go way, way up or way, way down. We are holding our breath to know which way the ball will bounce."

### Notice.

The Hon. Secretary of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be obliged if those members who have not paid their subscriptions for the last twelve months will kindly forward them to her as soon as possible to 431, Oxford Street, London, W., as the books will shortly be audited, and every shilling is needed to carry on the important work of the Society.

### More Food for Babies.

A new weekly nursing journal is to be issued shortly by a well-known firm of publishers, a circular concerning which has been widely distributed. So we are to be supplied with more "professional" food emanating from a lay source.

This circular informs us that the journal is to be conducted "on lines that will commend it to the whole body of nurses throughout the Kingdom," and further, "The journal will not concern itself with Nursing Politics, nor controversial matter," and then its programme appears to have been culled wholesale from our well-known bill of contents.

We have made inquiries concerning the *raison d'être* of the new venture, and have been informed that a certain ardent anti-registrationist is of opinion that without an organ in the Press to counteract the influence of this Journal, his policy is hopeless, that a publishing firm was therefore approached, which has consented to launch a paper, retaining the services of the ardent one on a proposed Consultative Board, yet in the preliminary circular making it quite clear that it is a purely commercial concern, and that the well-being of nurses and the betterment of their educational and professional position is to be left severely alone.

It will not, therefore, be surprising to find that "the Matrons of the large London hospitals" have been invited to form a Consultative Board, to give their influence, work, and any financial assets which may accrue from their patronage to this enterprising commercial undertaking. What is to be their *quid pro quo*? That is not divulged. To the Matrons of no other nation could such an unblushing proposal have been made. Imagine the leading American, Australasian, and Canadian Matrons being invited to bolster up a "lay" professional journal for the financial benefit of business men who, whilst utilising their influence, plainly state that they do not intend to concern themselves with their most important affairs! We can imagine what sort of answer these astute women, who "man" and manage their own professional journals, would make to such a proposal!

The truth is, there is a very strong feeling in the hospital world that Sir Henry Burdett has too long exploited this lucrative "philanthropic" field. From nurses he has for years reaped through his paper a very rich harvest, and now other financiers do not see why they should not have a look in: English nurses have proved totally oblivious of the fact, grasped by their American and Colonial colleagues, that the profits of nursing journals should be their own; also, that unless they are prepared to co-operate and *work* for the success of such journals, they cannot expect financial returns. All

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