

impracticable suggestion and one which could only have emanated from the genus "Packer." It is noteworthy Sir Henry Burdett (who is a member of the Central Hospital Council for London), and who edits a Directory of Nurses bearing his name, informed the Select Committee that this Directory had been a failure and had cost him a considerable sum of money. Is it possible that this is the Directory for which it is now proposed to obtain official sanction, and the financial support of nurses?

A PUBLIC DANGER.

The dangers of the scheme propounded by the Central Hospital Council lie in the following facts:—

That nurses are to have no voice in the establishment and control of the Directory, or in the maintenance of discipline amongst those whose names are to be found therein. Every nurse who has been trained at a Training School for Nurses not carried on for private gain is to have the right to have her name and certain particulars entered in the Directory, and it is suggested that those who are to control it shall repudiate any responsibility for the efficiency of the nurses whose names are found therein. Such a Directory would be a public danger. Moreover, the proposal that the Directory shall be kept by an "Official Registrar who would either *act on his own authority* or be under a Department of State" shows the spirit in which the project is conceived.

THE HOSPITAL TRUST.

The real object of the establishment of this Directory is to be found in the statement that "these proposals would leave each training school to develop its teaching on the lines best suited to its special circumstances." In other words, the authorities of the London training schools object to what has been termed "state interference," and are struggling to the last to retain autocratic powers—which it is not in the public interest they should possess—over the nurses of the United Kingdom who have never been in their employ, and thousands of whom we know very strongly object to the tactics of the Hospital Trust.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND NURSES' REGISTRATION.

It must be noted that the great body of medical practitioners throughout the country are practically unanimous in support of the principle of State Registration of Nurses. The medical opposition comes almost exclusively from London consultants connected with opposing hospitals. It is greatly to be regretted that these medical men, who undoubtedly would have been unable to make the fortunes they at present possess had it not been for the skill and

devotion with which nurses have cared for the patients whom they treat, should apparently so little appreciate the loyalty with which nurses have served their interests, and should desire to prevent their obtaining that recognition of their work by the State to which without doubt they are entitled.

The recent Annual Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association, voicing the considered opinion of at least 10,000 medical practitioners throughout the country, strongly supported the principle of State Registration of Nurses, and condemned the proposal for a Directory.

A CORNER IN NURSES.

The present proposal for the establishment of a Directory of nurses is but a variation of that to obtain a licence approved by the Board of Trade to establish what has been aptly termed a "corner in nurses." The history of the application of the city financiers to the Board of Trade for its licence to obtain wide powers of control over nurses proves what the latter can do by united and determined action.

A MEETING OF PROTEST.

Arrangements are being made for a meeting to be held in London in the autumn, to protest against the proposed substitution of the suggested Directory for a State Register of Nurses, and to demonstrate its danger, when we do not doubt that the opposition expressed by nurses will be as uncompromising as on the occasion above referred to.

The *British Medical Journal*, referring to the Registration question says: "Upon the subject of the State Registration of Nurses the Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association, spoke with an almost unanimous voice approving of the principle, condemning the alternative proposal for a 'directory,' and expressing the opinion that on the Central Nursing Board, when it comes into existence, the medical profession and the nursing profession should be adequately and directly represented; a resolution to this effect was carried by 90 votes to 3. As there seems to be some misapprehension on the matter it may be well to point out that the Lord President of the Privy Council, Lord Crewe, did not say that the Government was opposed to the principle of State Registration of Nurses, but merely that the Government could not take the matter up during the present session, and could not give any promise with regard to the next session. He further pointed out that what the Select Committee hoped was that State Registration would lead teaching institutions to adopt uniform and improved methods of education."

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