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## Editorial.

### A DANGEROUS HOSPITAL TRUST.

#### A WARNING TO NURSES.

The Central Hospital Council for London has prepared a Bill for presentation to Parliament "To Provide for the Establishment of an Official Directory of Nurses," the whole scheme of which is so dangerous to the personal liberty of the class for which it proposes to legislate, that trained nurses will doubtless actively oppose it.

#### REASONS FOR OPPOSITION.

1. The Bill deals with legislation for women, and the Council which has drafted it is entirely composed of men who are, moreover, as hospital governors and medical practitioners, the employers of the class of women whom it affects.

2. It has been prepared with the utmost secrecy. The heads of the Training Schools and Nursing Staffs, and the members of organised bodies of nurses, have been purposely kept in ignorance of its preparation and provisions.

3. It has not been drafted to give effect to the recommendations of the Select Committee on nursing, but in direct contravention of the very principles upon which Mr. H. J. Tenant's Committee based its recommendations after a most exhaustive inquiry into the present conditions of nursing education, and the economic conditions of nurses. The suggestion for a Directory of Nurses in opposition to a State Register, which was brought before the Committee, was ignored in its Report to Parliament.

4. It is an outrage that a Bill should be drafted by men to be introduced into Parliament, intimately affecting the lives and the professional and economic conditions of a large body of women workers, without consultation with those who are to be compelled to obey its provisions.

#### A RETROSPECT.

Trained Nurses will remember that the Central Hospital Council for London, which has been the chief organiser of the opposition to the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and

which handed in to the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Registration of Nurses a resolution stating that "this Council is opposed to any State Registration of Nurses, and that steps be taken on its behalf to oppose any Bill in Parliament having such registration for its object," was, after the unanimous report of the Select Committee in favour of Registration, compelled to abandon this untenable position.

When a Deputation from the Central Hospital Council was received at the Privy Council Office by the Lord President last year, the Council were obliged to own that "they recognised as legitimate the desire that there should be a record of the experience of nurses available," and recommended the publication of an "Official Directory" controlled by an "Official Registrar."

They then proceeded to propose instead of the carefully drafted Bill prepared by the nurses, which provided for a just measure of self-government, a scheme in which nurses should have no voice in the control of their profession, and by which their professional reputation, and consequently their power of self-support, would be dependent on a male official, who was to be empowered to remove their names from the Directory.

Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, criticising this proposition in the *Chelsea Infirmary Nurses' Journal* at the time wrote as follows:—

"It is obvious that this scheme will do little to promote those objects which Registrationists have at heart. It will do nothing to level up the standards of training in the different institutions of the country, nothing to place the well-trained provincial nurse on an equal footing with her London trained sister; it will not enlighten the public as to the quality of the training given by the various hospitals, and it will not lessen the unfair competition between the partially trained and the fully trained nurse. It is also hardly conceivable that the profession will submit to the rule and absolute decree of a single Privy Councillor.

"It is well, therefore, that while welcoming

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