

personal and professional liberty of trained nurses shall be controlled by medical men, a demoralising system, and one which is not in force in the training schools, where discipline is maintained by a woman, the Matron. The Directory Bill, which emanates from the fertile anti-registration brain of the Hospital Council for London is a Coercion Bill, to effect the absolute subjection of the whole Nursing profession by those who employ them. How dangerous it is may be determined by the fact that Sir Henry Burdett, who is on the Council which drafted it, has never dared to publish it in his lay nursing organ, and the "impartial" nurses' organ of Macmillan and Co. has also suppressed it. Every nurse should make a point of warning her Member of Parliament of the highly objectionable and dangerous provisions of both Bills. The Directory Bill was printed in full in this journal on December 7th last.

The effect of the three Bills, if either became law, would be: (1) Nurses' Bill—Improved educational and disciplinary standards and conditions for trained nurses, a guarantee of their efficiency for the medical profession and the sick. (2) Royal British Nurses' Association Bill—Undue control by the medical profession, which is subversive of discipline. (3) Directory Bill—Absolute subjection of worker to employer.

The Nurses' Registration Bill, promoted by the Society for the State Registration of Nurses, was introduced into the House of Commons, and read a first time, by Mr. R. C. Munro-Ferguson, M.P., on Wednesday, the 19th inst.

It is backed by Sir John Dickson-Poynder (L.—Chippenham), the Right Hon. Sir John Kennaway (U.—Honiton), Sir George Scott Robertson, K.C.S.I. (L.—Bradford Cen.), Mr. C. D. Rose (L.—Newmarket), Mr. Rolland Rainy, M.B., C.M.; Edin. (L.—Kilmarnock Burghs), Mr. V. H. Rutherford, M.B., (L.—Brentford), Mr. A. Fell (U.—Yarmouth), Mr. W. Crooks (Lab.—Woolwich), Mr. Jowett (Lab.—Bradford, W.), and Mr. W. McKillop (N.—Armagh, S.), Sir G. S. Robertson, Mr. A. Rolland Rainy, and Mr. V. H. Rutherford are members of the medical profession.

The Royal British Nurses' Association Bill was introduced on Thursday, the 13th inst., by Mr. Claude Hay, M.P.

Dr. Maudsley, of Queen Street, Mayfair, has offered the L.C.C. £30,000 for the erection of a hospital for mental diseases in London. The offer has been accepted.

The Appeal to Parliament.

A Meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association, convened by the President, Mrs. Kildare Treacy, was held in Dublin on Wednesday afternoon, in support of the Resolutions to be proposed at the Caxton Hall meeting in London on the 21st inst. This is the spirited way in which our Irish sisters encourage the registration movement, and failing their presence at our meeting, owing to distance, it is of the greatest value, as a proof of their hearty co-operation, we thank them much.

The Army and Navy Male Nurses Co-operation.

The Army and Navy Male Nurses' Co-operation, at 47B, Welbeck Street, Cavendish Square, W., is now in full working order, and a number of men have been placed with cases. The Co-operation must commend itself to the public, not only as an effort to supply well-trained male nurses, for whom there is an undoubted demand, but also as a patriotic attempt to find employment for trained men of assured good character when they leave the Services. Such men certainly deserve well of their country, and it is sad that, for lack of organisation, they have hitherto found it difficult to obtain work, and drift into employment in civil life quite unworthy of their past records, or fail to find it altogether. The nurses sent out by the Co-operation must either possess a certificate of three years' training in Military Hospitals, or be retired members of the Sick Berth Staff of the Royal Navy. Only the most intelligent lads are allowed to enter the Nursing Service in the Navy. They go first to the Naval Hospitals at Portsmouth or Plymouth, and at the end of six months' training, which also includes dispensing, sick room cookery, and Swedish drill, they are required to present themselves for examination. If they are successful in passing it, they continue in hospital for another eighteen months, after which they are drafted to ships. Only long-service men are accepted by the Co-operation.*

The greatest care is exercised by the selection sub-committee to choose men of unexceptional character. Their credentials are

* Owing to the fact that there is no Nursing Department at the Admiralty the standard of training in the Navy has not been brought up to the standard in the Army. Such a Department should be established without delay.

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