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## Editorial.

### MEDIÆVAL LEGISLATION.

It is important that the aims of the three Bills, under which legislation is at present proposed for nurses, should be thoroughly grasped both by nurses and the public so that no Act inimical to the interests of both may be passed by Parliament.

The first Bill is that introduced by Mr. R. C. Munro Ferguson, which has been drafted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and embodies the views of nurses as to the just government of their profession. They ask for a bare majority on their own governing body, and provide for representation upon it of the medical profession, and the public.

The second Bill is that introduced by Mr. Claude Hay on behalf of the Royal British Nurses Association, which Association, as is well known, is dominated at the present time by its Hon. Medical Officers. It gives undue representation to the medical profession, and especially to the academic element, as represented by the General Medical Council, while it accords only one seat to the British Medical Association which is representative of medical opinion throughout the country.

The third Bill is that under which legislation is proposed by the Central Hospital Council for London, or more accurately, perhaps, through the Central Hospital Council for London by Mr. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital, and Sir Henry Burdett, editor of the anti-registration organ, so that it is known as the Holland-Burdett Bill.

This Bill bristles with dangers. No evidence of efficiency is required of nurses, therefore, none is afforded to the public. It has been secretly drawn up, and no Associations of Nurses have been consulted

as to its provisions, though its framers were well aware that trained nurses have for twenty years been considering legislation on their own behalf. We may point out that concealment is unnecessary in the case of actions which are straight and fair, and that if the Central Hospital Council for London felt any confidence in the justice of the provisions of its Bill it would not be afraid of the criticism of the nursing profession.

The Bill provides that an Official Directory shall be established by an Order in Council so that the conditions governing the admission and exclusion of nurses from this Directory, and all professional organisation, would be decided, not by Parliament, as in the Nurses' Bill, but by the Privy Council, thus preventing healthy discussion in the House of Commons.

Legislation on behalf of any class without reference to the wishes of that class is intolerable and could only be proposed by men entirely out of touch with the spirit of the age when dealing with the organisation of a women's profession.

We hope that every self-respecting nurse will strenuously oppose this Bill and bring its dangerous provisions to the notice of members of Parliament and other influential persons so that the whole scheme may be frustrated.

As Miss Mollett has said, what we ask for is a strong central authority to control the education of nurses. We desire to be governed professionally by sane laws, by which we have bound ourselves of our own free will for our own and the common good.

What we want Mr. Holland and his friends to understand is that we will not submit to the mediæval and insupportable legislation by which they are attempting to reduce Nurses in the United Kingdom to the position of serfs.

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