

think carefully of this matter. It is a very real danger, for these would-be exploiters of Nurses, pose as being altogether actuated by anxiety for our welfare! "Save us from our friends," if that be so.

I am sceptical upon the point, but even if it were true, I do not think it would be well for intelligent women—as trained nurses must of necessity be—to be led blindfold, governed, and controlled, by outsiders, by men who do not really understand the needs of nurses, and who prove that they know nothing of their mental attitude, when they imagine that Irish trained nurses will be content to be "lassoed" in the fashion proposed.

These "friends" pay but a poor compliment to the power of trained observation, and the accurate intelligence which exist under the cap and apron, when they contemplate binding us hand and foot, without offering us a shadow of representation on the Councils which are suggested for our control. Why should there be this anxiety to manage nursing affairs? For one reason, amongst many. It would give power into the hands of those who control us, and a wage-earning body such as we are represents a considerable amount of money annually for someone, to say nothing of the power. Why should we not unite ourselves, and use our own power and money for the benefit of our profession? Surely we should have as good use for these trained faculties of ours as most others, and not content ourselves with being treated as shuttlecocks in the hands of the exploiters.

I need hardly remind you of the various attempts made "to gobble us up" recently. There was the application secretly made to the Board of Trade for its licence to incorporate seven eminent and wealthy financiers of the City of London as "The Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education of Nurses."

You know how this was frustrated, at a heavy cost of time and money, and by the most generous aid of the Irish M.P.'s, who have always seemed ready to respond to our appeals.

The next instance was when the Metropolitan Asylums Board of London approved a Draft to consolidate and amend the Orders at present subsisting, under which, subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board, which is necessary before the Order can take effect, future Matrons of Asylums Board Hospitals would be deprived of the rank of Principal Officers, at present held by M.A.B. Matrons. They would thus rank as subordinate officers, which would affect their status, disciplinary powers, and ultimately, no doubt, their pay and leave. This also had to be combated. The President of the Local Government Board has so far withheld his sanction, as you know.

Then there has been the latest attempt at coercion, a Draft Bill to establish a Directory for Trained Nurses. This Draft, as you are aware, offered nothing whatever to the nurses but a measure of strict coercion, giving all control into the hands of the Directorate

alone—a twentieth century inquisition. All these subtle attempts show us that there is great need for some protection for us from these "friends" of nurses.

State Registration would appear to be the best and only remedy for the present state of our affairs. It would at once settle our status, and give us the protection we sorely need. What are some of the reasons for this legislation in our interest? To give us one common standard of education, and of examination. To prevent unworthy and unqualified persons from posing as Trained Nurses, taking money under false pretences, to the grave injury of all true nurses.

Perhaps you may not be aware, that in our census returns the Trained Nurses are to be found grouped with the scrubbers and other hospital attendants! At present we possess no legal status in the scheme of public life. It is impossible to say accurately the numbers of trained nurses in Great Britain and Ireland because of this curious grouping, but there are about 80,000, 8,000 of whom belong to Ireland. All such increasing bodies aim at State recognition, and the protection it affords. Why not Nurses?

How can we help on this matter? How can you and I contribute to the success of our beloved profession? Does anyone in this room think, or murmur to herself, "I have no time; let the matrons see to all that!"

What sort of army would it be if only the generals and colonels (the officers only) went into a battle? What would happen if there were no men in the ranks?

You want this to be a victory and not a rout. The matrons cannot do without you any more than you can do without them—we are dependent upon each other. It is this spirit of unity and strength which underlies all nursing; this desire to help our fellows, which has brought us all on to this platform; this hand-in-hand movement which, while it draws us onward, is cementing the true comradeship which arises and grows between the members of such associations as ours.

The next practical help we can give would be to join—if not already members—the Society for State Registration, which has its offices at 431, Oxford Street, London. We can also support THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 11, Adam Street, Strand, which, let me remind you, is our own paper, and honestly doing our own work—the only nursing paper which is run by nurses themselves, and in the interests of nurses alone.

I presume you are aware that all the others are merely edited and published by some of the large magazine houses, and for the benefit solely of those houses. Moreover, not one of those journals but is anti-registrationist, and every penny spent on these quack journals is a penny spent against State Registration and self-government for our profession. Well, the State Society for Registration, and the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING are all in our own interests, and for the small annual sum of one shilling you can join the State Registration Society, and when our Bill passes I am very certain that its

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