

THE TRAINED NURSES' PROTEST AGAINST ASSOCIATION WITH THE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC.

AN OPEN LETTER TO TRAINED NURSES.

DEAR FELLOW NURSES,—You are aware that a great deal of sympathy was expressed for us, in the now notorious "Queenie Gerald" case, in which "Nurse Betty," her employee, dared to abuse our uniform by wearing it in a brothel. You will remember that some of us, smarting under the great dishonour to our profession, openly protested, by means of a poster parade successfully carried out. Successful, because we gained the sympathy of crowds who are beginning to realize the intolerable wrong done to an honourable profession, and that nurses are on strike against it. The Queenie Gerald case is not the only one of its kind; there are undoubtedly many more that have so far evaded the vigilance of the law, while a police raid has recently been made upon another disorderly house where the circumstances were almost identical with those of the former case: another woman "dressed as a Nurse" employed in a brothel!

The only satisfactory feature of this case is that the magistrate who sentenced the woman Violet Osborne Grey, spoke in strong terms of censure about the misuse of our uniform by the woman in her employ. Who shall say that the rumour of our parade has not reached him!

All this you have of course read in the JOURNAL; I merely wish to remind you of it, in order to point out the necessity for further action. Our last Poster Parade was a small one, but all took part who were invited to do so. In view of the fact that the evil we are out to fight continues, we must continue to protest. *We must fight for the honour of our uniform as soldiers fight for the honour of their flag.*

What we propose to do is this:—In the first place to appeal to the readers of the JOURNAL who are in sympathy with us (which, of course, means all) to join us in a much larger parade through the streets, wearing posters back and front. They will be of the very lightest possible description, not boards at all, but stiff material, fastened together with tapes at the sides to prevent the wind sporting with them. We are anxious to impress the public that we are *trained nurses*. For this reason we propose wearing outdoor uniform, put on as neatly and professionally as possible, so that there shall be no mistake that we have a right to wear it.

I should like to have a hundred nurses in this

parade. Those who are not actively nursing as well as those who are, and can spare the time. I think if we can get the numbers, we shall make an impression upon the legislators—for we shall parade before the House—which is likely to give an impetus to our State Registration Movement. This you will readily understand is the fundamental basis of our protest, that we are still without legal status and power to protect our cloth after working for it for a quarter of a century.

There is another thought in my mind. We are all grateful to our leaders for their unremitting labours on behalf of State Registration, which will so largely benefit *us* as well as the patients whom we serve. Twenty-five years is a long time to work patiently and cheerfully, and strive against opposition without very much help. Let us carry out this parade to help and encourage our leaders. Let us make of it *our* contribution to the Cause they have served so long. If everyone who is willing to join the Parade, which will take place when Parliament meets, will write to me at this, my private address, *as soon as possible*, I shall be very glad. The cost of the posters per pair will be approximately 2s. I hope all those intending to take part in the Parade will send me this amount, which will, if so desired, be acknowledged in the JOURNAL, where all information concerning the Parade will appear.

With every good wish for the success of our enterprise,

I remain, yours very sincerely,

BEATRICE KENT,

Organiser.

13, Coliseum Terrace,
Regent's Park, N.W.

We warmly endorse this appeal made by Miss Beatrice Kent, and the Editor and Sub-Editor intend to take part in the Parade of Protest.

STATE REGISTRATION AND THE PUBLIC.

A most admirable Paper, dealing with the question of State Registration of Nurses from the point of view of the public, was read, a short time ago, by Miss Alice M. Wackrill, before the Leamington Franchise Club. Miss Wackrill has had the generosity to present this Paper to the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which has now published it in pamphlet form. Copies, price 2d. each, postage extra, may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary of the Society, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Nurses should study and distribute it.

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