

superintendents of nurses from all parts of the United Kingdom.

He is also circularising the medical profession to oppose legal status being granted to nurses, a privilege they of course enjoy themselves.

Several matrons have written to us asking if we can "show up" the ambiguity of the London Hospital tactics. They have received the following letters:—

London Hospital,
Whitechapel, E.

June, 1914.

Dear Madam,—Please excuse typing as I am so very busy. Have you been able to sign and get signatures to the Protest against the Registration Bill?

We have received 160 letters from Matrons against the Bill, and only 38 in favour so far.

Yours faithfully,

KNUTSFORD, *Chairman.*

It will be observed that this letter infers that Lord Knutsford has invited signatures *for* and *against* his Protest. He has done no such thing. All he has asked for is that matrons should sign and get their nurses to sign *against* Registration. No doubt 38 registrationists notified him they were in favour, as he sent stamped envelopes for a reply; the majority of the recipients no doubt ignored the communication.

The second letter is as follows:—

London Hospital,
Whitechapel, E.,

June 12th, 1914.

Dear Madam,—Thank you for your letter about the Bill for the State Registration of Nurses. Have you studied the composition of the Council to whom it is proposed to hand over the whole future of nursing?

This Body is to consist of 21 persons, only 8 of whom are to be registered nurses. Of the rest, 9 are to be medical practitioners (or, as an alternative, 8, and 1 registered male nurse), 1 mental nurse, and 3 nominees of the Privy Council. The Nurses on the Council are therefore to be in the minority, and there is no guarantee that there will be on this Council a single Acting Matron of any Nurse Training School.

Yours faithfully,

KNUTSFORD, *Chairman.*

Lord Knutsford's deductions are, of course, very erroneous. The nurses are not in the minority on the Central Nursing Council. The Bill provides for 10, 8 to be elected by the registered nurses, including matrons, as their *direct representatives*—all of whom may be Acting Matrons if they choose, and of whom four must be, or have been, matrons of general training schools for nurses, 1 to be a mental nurse, and 1 may be a male nurse. Moreover,

there is nothing in the Bill to prevent the Privy Council appointing 3 nurses if they choose! But the Bill wisely provides that the nurses' representatives are elected by the registered nurses themselves, and from past experience of the manner in which many Acting Matrons in London have associated themselves with their reactionary committees against the educational and economic interests of the nursing profession as a whole, nothing could be more dangerous to progress than that the entire power on the governing body, of the nursing profession, should fall into the hands of irresponsible committees through such means.

We would ask Lord Knutsford, who is apparently so very anxious for the representation of nurses on the Nursing Council, how many matrons, nurses, or lay women have seats on the House Committee of the London Hospital, which employs 700 nurses—or on the Central Hospital Council for London, which secretly projected the Nurses' Directory Bill?

There is no need to wait for an answer. There is not one woman of any description whatever on either of these committees. The nurses' work, and their entire lives at the London Hospital, are absolutely governed by men, and men, moreover, of the autocratic type of Lord Knutsford. The Nurses' Directory Bill, which he drafted, provided that *one man* should have the power of inserting and eliminating the nurses' names from the Directory. A dangerous and intolerable monopoly indeed, which was exposed by the registrationists, and defeated in the House of Lords.

THE NIGHTINGALE FUND.

PROPOSED NEW SCHEME OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NURSES.

The Nightingale Fund owes its origin to the recognition by the nation of the work done by Miss Nightingale in the Crimea. The sum offered to her she applied in various ways for the improvement of nursing and particularly in founding what was then the only and the pioneer school for the scientific training of nurses. This school was connected with St. Thomas' Hospital, where it still remains, and has served as the model for the numerous training schools which now exist, both here and abroad. The Fund is administered by a Council, acting under a trust deed drawn up in the lifetime of Miss Nightingale herself. Applied at its inception in pioneer work in nurse training, the Council is strongly impressed with the belief that this object should remain as one of its guiding principles to-day.

The pattern set by Miss Nightingale in 1860 has been widely followed; and in the ordinary training of nurses no more pioneer work remains to be done. The Council has therefore been considering whether there be not something yet

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