

MAJOR CHAPPLE, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Stanley, said that so long as he avoided the danger of giving a stone to the nurses who asked for bread, they might congratulate themselves on having secured his interest.

INDEPENDENT OPINION.

We referred a few weeks ago, says the *Medical Press*, to the proposed "College of Nursing" of which Mr. Arthur Stanley is the chief promoter. There have been two conferences on the subject at which representatives of those interested in the State Registration of Nurses have been present. It is only right to say that Mr. Stanley has set himself to meet criticisms of his project in a most conciliatory manner, and has shown a desire to have the matter fully discussed. Some of his supporters and advisers have not, it is true, been so judicious, but that may pass. The upholders of State registration will, however, be well advised not to let themselves be persuaded to give up their demand by any show of reasonableness on the other side. The claim for State Registration is clear, and it is made not only by the overwhelming majority of trained nurses but by the majority of the medical profession. A voluntary enrolment will not fulfil any of the purposes of a State register, but it may easily block the way. Over and above this, Mr. Stanley's scheme contains the entirely objectionable condition of government by a self-nominated and irresponsible Committee containing an unknown proportion of lay people. Much play has been made by the promoters of the scheme of the misleading analogy of the proposed College of Nursing with the Incorporated Law Society. As a matter of fact, the control of the roll of solicitors is in the hands of the Lord Chancellor and not of the Incorporated Law Society, but, apart from this, we should not envy the man who had the audacity to propose to the solicitors' profession that the government of the Incorporated Law Society should be given to a self-nominated committee consisting of a mixture of solicitors and well-meaning busybodies, who have no knowledge of law but were interested in the education of solicitors. This would be a fair parallel to what Mr. Stanley and his advisers suggest to the nursing profession.

Referring to the Nursing College Scheme, promoted by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, the *South African Nursing Record* says: "It is not in our province to criticize the registration question in Britain, but against one thing we can warn them from our own experience, and that is that to play with the question is dangerous, and a great deal worse than useless. Any alteration must be radical, or it will be no use at all, and the last state of the profession will be worse than the first. A question like this must be settled either one way or the other, and there is no room for compromise. For that reason we are not too enthusiastic over the Hon. Stanley's scheme, which it seems to us begs the question and tries to please two parties at once."

SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses on Saturday, April 1st, to receive a Report from the delegates, appointed to attend the Conferences held by Mr. Stanley and his advisers with the delegates of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses and others, and to take such action thereon as may seem advisable.

As the sole object of this Society is to promote a Bill in Parliament for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, it is felt that as the College of Nursing Scheme intends to proceed to attempt the organization of the Nursing Profession on a voluntary basis through a Limited Liability Company, that every effort must be made to save trained nurses without delay from the unjust competition of V.A.D.'s and others posing as trained nurses after the war. To this end, concerning which the members are very keen, an active campaign is contemplated, and the President hopes she will have their warm support in the arduous work the Society has before it. Not a moment should be lost in combating the proposal, incorporated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the College of Nursing, "to institute and conduct examinations in all branches of women's work connected with hospitals other than the practice of medicine, surgery, and obstetrics, and to grant certificates." The present constitution of the College gives existing trained nurses neither legal status nor protection of any kind from unfair, unskilled competition.

What the President claims, and believes she will receive, is loyal and disinterested support from the members, for the principles for which the registrationists have worked so untiringly for so many years, and for which the Society for State Registration was founded.

Every trained nurse holding a three years' certificate of training should join the Society, and take a firm stand now for Legal Registration by Act of Parliament.

Now is the time;—not years hence, when a supplementary register of the semi-trained, set up by an unprofessional Limited Liability Company, may have done much to depreciate the three years' standard of training, and to flood the nursing market with inefficient workers.

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