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EDITORIAL.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NURSING PROFESSION.

Last week we published in full the Circular Letter in which the Honourable Arthur Stanley, M.P., outlines a scheme for establishing a Nursing College, for which it is proposed to seek incorporation under the Board of Trade, without the word "Limited," and through which it is contemplated the nursing profession will be organized, a scheme of examinations instituted, and certificates of proficiency in nursing granted. In this issue we propose to lay before our readers the principal points of this scheme.

The letter is circulated on the official paper of the Joint War Committee, and signed by its Chairman, presumably, therefore, the Committee as a whole, which is composed of the following persons, is responsible for the scheme.

CHAIRMAN :

The Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.V.O., M.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN :

Colonel Sir Herbert Perrott, Bart., C.B.

APPOINTED BY THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN.

Adeline Duchess of Bedford (Chairman of Special Committee of Ladies of the Order), The Marchioness of Ripon, Lady Perrott, Colonel Sir Herbert Jekyll, K.C.M.G., The Secretary General (Evelyn Cecil, Esq., M.P.), The Director of the Ambulance Department (the Earl of Plymouth, C.B.), the Assist. Director (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Richard Carnac Temple, C.I.E.), Sir John Hewett, G.C.S.I. (Chairman of Indian Sub-Committee), the Earl of Ranfurly, G.C.M.G., the Hon. W. H. Goschen.

APPOINTED BY THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

H.R.H. The Princess Christian, The Marchioness of Lansdowne, C.I., Georgina Countess of Dudley, R.R.C., The Lady Northcliffe, Surg.-General Sir Benjamin Franklin, K.C.I.E., Sir William E. Garstin, G.C.M.G., Sir Robert Arundel Hudson (Chairman of the Finance Committee), Sir Walter Roper Larence, G.C.I.E., Edward A. Risdale, Esq. (Vice-Chairman of Executive), The Hon. Sir

Charles Russell, Sir Frederick Treves (Vice-Chairman of the Council); Secretary, G. Sawyer, Esq.

It will be observed that trained nurses have no representation on the Committee.

VOLUNTARY *versus* LEGAL REGISTRATION.

We divulge no confidence in stating that this new suggestion for the substitution of a voluntary for a legal system of registration, is being actively advocated by the Matron of St. Thomas' Hospital, Miss Lloyd Still, supported by active anti-registration protagonists, and it contains suggestions which, in our opinion, are dangerous pitfalls, against which all the organized members of the nursing profession have already protested on several occasions. For over a quarter of a century trained nurses have been working for the organization of their profession under State Authority, the only authority under which they can obtain effective powers. They ask for bread, and are offered a stone.

It is unnecessary to say that we are not opposed to the foundation of a College of Nursing in this country. We were the first to propose it twenty years ago, but the function of such a College is academic, not economic and disciplinary.

THE DISORGANIZED CONDITION OF NURSING.

No one will be surprised to learn that the Hon. Arthur Stanley, in his official position as Chairman of the Joint War Committee, has recognized the disorganized condition of the nursing profession, but surely, as a Member of Parliament, he must have been already aware that the most thoughtful and liberal-minded Matrons and nurses have, for years, been pleading with Parliament to grant them statutory authority to organize their own profession, as they have a right to do; and that the blame for the chaotic condition of nursing—both educational and economic—must be placed on the House of Commons, which, year after year, has acquiesced in the refusal of the Premier to grant facilities in that Chamber for the second reading of the Nurses' Registration Bill.

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