

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

LORD KNUTSFORD OPPOSES THE COLLEGE.

It is reported that Lord Knutsford has circularised nurses trained at the London Hospital, and advised them not to register and join the College of Nursing! This is a little surprising, as the statement had gone far afield that Lord Knutsford was amongst the converted. It is also surprising, because the College Council has arranged a special portal through which London Hospital nurses may enter in—"all on their lone"—admitting to registration in Class 2 those nurses who hold a two years' certificate followed by two years' practice as a nurse. The London Hospital standard is also provided for during the three years' term of grace in the College Bill. This privileged treatment is unjust and calculated to undermine the three years' standard of training—to which nurses in other large hospitals have to conform—and gives the protection of the College to a system of compulsory private nursing for gain during a nurse's third year at the London Hospital, which is—both from an educational and economic standard—radically wrong.

We recently met a very progressive London Hospital nurse, who criticised these concessions of the College to her training school. "Many London Hospital nurses are," she said, "in favour of State Registration, because they hope by Act of Parliament to secure, as a right, the third year's training in the wards, which is now only granted at the discretion of the Matron—who is at liberty to send them out private nursing with a two years' certificate only. Now the College of Nursing is perpetuating this bad system, and is going to shackle us with the short term training, and leave us to be exploited for years. Moreover, we object to being registered as 'second class' as provided in the College conditions." We gave this nurse a copy of the Bill drafted by the Central Committee—which contains none of the conditions to which she objects.

WHERE WERE THE MATRONS?

Again we have to enquire, "Where were the Matrons?" When a deputation of the Medico-Psychological Association, together with the Acting Secretary of the Asylum Workers' Association, was received by Mr. Arthur Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry, of the College of Nursing, to discuss the Registration of Nurses, it is not reported that any of the Matrons were present. These deputations concerning our professional affairs should, in our opinion, be received by the Council of the College and not by the Hon. Officers alone—who do not include any trained nurses amongst their number. This is the result of the lack of direct representation of the nursing profession on a body which presumes to attempt to govern it without consent. We note in this connection that the *Poor Law Officers' Journal* calls our criticism of these conferences concerning our affairs—at

which we are excluded from expressing an opinion—an "unsubstantial complaint," and states that the recent interview between the representatives of the Poor Law Unions' Association and the Hon. Officers of the College "was not held in order that the Matrons on the Council . . . might state their opinions, but in order that the views of the Poor Law Unions' Association on the question of nursing in Poor Law Hospitals could be explained." Exactly. These views concerned the work of thousands of Poor Law Nurses—and our contention is that the Matrons, especially those of Poor Law Infirmaries, who have accepted nomination on the College Council, should take part in such discussions. If they do not do so, the Poor Law Nurses' point of view is excluded from consideration, and the position of the Matrons on the College Council is a dangerous sinecure—so far as the nursing profession is concerned. Let us hope that, under the new dispensation in which Labour is to have an effective voice, the right of women workers to discuss and control their own affairs will be conceded.

AN APPLE OF DISCORD IN IRELAND.

The primary mistake made by the promoters of the College of Nursing was to ignore the Trained Nurses' Organizations, the majority of which had been working for State Organization for years, and the Irish Nurses' Association has not yet forgotten that an English lady trained at the London Hospital, now a matron in Dublin was invited by Miss Swift to attend a meeting in London to "represent Ireland"! A *faux pas* the lady in question did not commit.

But the high-handed methods of the College still continue, and it has been for some time in communication with the medical colleges, and hospital committees in Dublin, inviting them to form an Irish Board, presumably on the lines of the Scottish Board, the constitution of which is designed to control certificated nurses, and deprive them of professional and economic independence. Unfortunately, there is a little clique of matrons in Dublin, trained at St. Thomas' Hospital and elsewhere in England, who have systematically opposed the demand of Irish nurses for a system of self-governing legislation, and these ladies have formed a small committee to support the College policy of "control by employers." A meeting will be held in Dublin in the New Year to place the aims of the College before the audience. Miss Harriet Reed, of Ivanhoe Nursing Home, who has the matter in hand, states in a letter to the press, that "there will be ample opportunity given for questions and open discussion." We may hope the Irish nurses will not only ask questions, but insist upon intelligent replies—which are usually not forthcoming from "College" advocates.

Miss K. Kearns notifies that an Irish Nurses' League is to be formed, presumably in opposition to the Irish Nurses' Association, which has done all the pioneer work of organizing Irish nurses, and working and paying for their State Registra-

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