

to be brought back and laid to rest in the soil of that dear England for which they have died.

And the rest? How soundly they sleep that first night. A hot drink, soap and water, clean sheets, a cigarette, those best of sedatives. They are dozing off with a jest on their lips, almost as soon as their heads touch the pillow.

The night is nearly gone and already dawn is stealing across the sky. The Sisters, now thoroughly wide awake and energetic, return to their rooms to try and steal another hour's rest before they are again summoned to their daily work:—

"The trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we need to ask,
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To lead us daily nearer God"

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

PLEDGING PARLIAMENT.

Through every channel available trained nurses are being frantically urged to join the College of Nursing, Limited, without a moment's delay. Money is no object, the guinea fee may be paid at any time, and perhaps this is just as well, as the Secretary, presumably with the consent of the Council, and the organs through which the College is advancing its propaganda, continue to pledge Parliament financially. "It has been decided," writes Miss Rundle, in a Nurses' League Journal (presumably by the College Council), "that a nurse whose name is on the College Register on the passing of the Act becomes at once a State Registered Nurse, and that no other fee shall be required of her than the fee of one guinea which she paid when accepted as a member of the College."

The hospital Governors' organs also both lay great emphasis on this financial bargain!

The nursing profession has a right to know upon what authority the Nursing College Company and its satellites, the lay edited nursing press, are pledging Parliament concerning what it may or may not think well to decide when a Nurses' Registration Bill is before it! Especially indecorous is a pledge on a financial provision of a Bill, concerning which the House of Commons is paramount, and it is extremely tenacious of this prerogative. We are of opinion that the College of Nursing is placing itself in a very dubious position indeed in persuading nurses to pay a fee for "State Registration" before Parliament has even considered a Bill on the subject.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, POOR LAW NURSES, AND POOR LAW CONTROL.

POOR LAW GUARDIANS DICTATE STANDARDS TO THE COLLEGE OF NURSING,

We quote the following editorial remarks from the *Poor Law Officers' Journal*, of December 22nd: "There is matter for congratulation in the letter on this subject from Mr. Tom Percival,

the President of the National Poor-Law Officers' Association, which we print this week. The announcement by the Council of the College of Nursing that "they will accept the certificates of all schools recognised by the Local Government Board" as guarantees for the admission of practising nurses to the College Register represents a very great departure from their original regulations, and, we are entitled to remark, affords justification for the position which has been taken up from the outset by this *Journal*. But even this alteration or amendment does not fully cover the ground as regards the nurses, and the Council of the College would be well-advised to adopt a more thorough practice and take a fully responsible view of the situation. What, further, it may be asked, is required in justice to the nurses and as befits the conditions of nursing? This. We want the College to start on a level basis as regards Poor Law nurses who are practising their profession or calling. And there are numbers among them who were not trained in "schools recognised by the Local Government Board," but who nevertheless are fully competent and who in many instances are practising in infirmaries of various size, large and small, with great success and credit to the nursing profession as well as to themselves. These nurses, recognised as fully competent by the terms of their appointment, must be fully recognised also in the certificates of the College. This new Institution, in short, must start on a fair basis as regards the nurses; it ought not to be permitted to establish new rules which would ignore, if they did not circumvent, the conditions under which skilled nursing by practising nurses has been undertaken and is still in active work at this very hour. The point is so clear that it cannot escape from the attention of the Council of the College. It represents or coincides with the practice which was adopted by the Local Government Board when the Board prepared its Nursing Order, and it fits in not only with elementary fair treatment for the nurses who will be affected but with the general rule that new arrangements ought not to be made retrospective in a harmful manner. This is particularly so where any such rule would affect the public prejudicially as well as the individual. The nurses to whom we allude are among the most competent in their profession. Are they to be denied registration solely on the ground that at a time when such an organisation as the College of Nursing had not even approached the process of evolution, they began their training in an "unrecognised" school? Their training, as a matter of fact, has been in process ever since, and, as practising nurses, the process is continued during every one of their working hours. The College of Nursing must do what is fair (and what is no more than fair) in this matter.

POOR LAW GUARDIANS CLAIM ACTUAL AND ACTIVE CONTROL ON GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

There are other details as regards questions

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