

WHO WAS THE CENSOR?

Miss Jentie Paterson, formerly Out-patient Sister at Guy's Hospital, has received, as a member of the Guy's League, a copy of Guy's Hospital "Nursing Guide, Handbook of Nurses' League, and Register of Nurses Trained at Guy's Hospital for 1916," edited by the Matron, and was surprised to find this official publication had been used for promoting the scheme of the College of Nursing, Ltd. As after due consideration she found much to object to in its constitution, and rightly thinking that her colleagues should hear both sides of the question before they placed themselves under its autocratic control, she embodied her views in a letter which she sent to the Editor of the *Guy's Hospital Gazette*, which had formerly been pleased to insert opinions of Guy's nurses.

Miss Paterson has asked us to publish two letters on this matter received from the Editor of the *Gazette*, which, she considers, give ample proof of the intolerance of the powers that be as to Guy's nurses being permitted to express their opinion concerning the organization of their own profession.

Miss Paterson says "such tactics give one furiously to think," and she considers that the change in the tone of the Editor's second letter proves that Guy's nurses must be spoon-fed and have no opinions of their own.

LETTERS TO MISS JENTIE PATERSON FROM THE EDITOR OF THE "GUY'S HOSPITAL GAZETTE."

I.

DEAR MADAM,—I got your interesting letter a few days ago too late for insertion in the last *Gazette*. Just at the moment I have rather a lot of matter which has been held over for some time, but I hope I can find space for it in about a fortnight.

I am afraid I know very little about the question at issue, but I happened to see an article in the last issue of the *Hospital*, which I enclose. I don't know whether the amalgamation referred to there would lead you in any way to modify your views. Of course I shall be pleased to print your letter either in its present form or with any criticisms you may like to embody in it on the developments of the last few weeks.

I hope you will continue to send contributions to the *Gazette*. There are a large number of nurses and sisters among the subscribers, and I always feel that we do not give them as much space as I should like to.

Yours truly, J. J. CONYBEARE,
Editor G.H.G.

II.

February 12th.

DEAR MISS PATERSON,—I am returning your letter on the subject of the College of Nursing. I am afraid, on thinking the matter over, that the topic is not one to which the columns of a students' paper are open. Regretting that I am unable to publish it,

I am, yours truly, J. J. CONYBEARE,
Editor G.H.G.

WHAT IRISH NURSES WANT TO KNOW OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PROPOSED ROYAL BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSING.

The following Questions have been sent to us by Irish Nurses. Several of them were addressed to the representatives of the College of Nursing, Ltd., Miss Cox-Davies and Miss Rundle, at the meeting held in Dublin on January 27th. These ladies handed them on to Headquarters in London, and signed the replies which have already been officially issued to the press.

In our opinion the replies are not altogether complete or satisfactory. We will, therefore, do our best to answer the questions from a Nurse's point of view.

1. Q. Where does Ireland come in?

A. Ireland is not included in the title of the Royal British College of Nursing. The name of this Kingdom since the Union in 1801 is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Irish nationality is sacred to the people of Ireland, and the national characteristics, love of freedom combined with keen wit, are not to be satisfied by a ready-made constitution compiled by men of an alien race, apparently totally devoid of either quality. Irish representation on the nominated Council is limited to 6 but in the proposed new Bye-laws of the R.B.C.N. there is no provision to limit the ultimate number on the Council, which is to govern the College. The Irish can thus be outvoted by 7 to 1 on any vital question.

2. Q. Why were none of the Nurses' Associations and Leagues throughout the United Kingdom which had been working for the organization of the Nursing Profession through State Registration consulted or invited to elect representatives on to the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd.?

A. Because the spirit of the College scheme is intensely autocratic and its real promoters are afraid of the groups of trained nurses who have promoted the State Registration movement and proved themselves extremely capable of managing their own affairs. The College Constitution has been drafted by a few men who have determinedly opposed by every means in their power, every effort upon the part of the progressive section of the nursing profession to secure State protection and control for their professional education and economic condition by Act of Parliament. This Constitution was in print, as was the first Draft of its Registration Bill, before it was submitted to the Matrons on the Council.

This determination upon the part of the real promoters of the College to exclude the direct representatives of the working nurse is emphasised by the fact that the College Council has not nominated one *independent nurse* on to the list of the proposed Governing Body under the Supplemental Charter. Its nominees are 18

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