

Matrons, 6 doctors and 2 laymen—all employers or their salaried officials.

Thus, for the thousands of pounds the nurses are invited to contribute to finance the Scheme (ostensibly for voluntary registration), the College has denied to them any power over its expenditure. Not only are the "registered" nurses to be "controlled" until the Rules and Regulations are agreed upon, but they are to find the funds for their own subjugation. The self-governing nurses' associations demand direct representation from the first on their own governing body, and a voice in the expenditure of their own money. The College has thrust a system of taxation without representation upon the members of the profession under their control. In spirit the inspirers of College policy are the "antis" they have ever been.

In their reply to this question Miss Cox-Davies and Miss Rundle evade the principle of democratic control involved. They stated "Trained Nurses have never been ignored in this matter. From the formation of the first Council at least two-thirds of the members have been trained Nurses in active work, and in close touch not only with Nursing Education but with the *Certificated Nurse*." Every one of these "trained Nurses" is a Matron, and as hospital officials they are not free agents, and they have no right whatever to represent independent *Certificated Nurses* and speak in their name unless elected by their organizations to do so.

3. Q. Has the Council power to elect an unlimited number of the laity as members of the College Corporation?

A. Yes. (See Bye-law 4. b.) "The Council may elect, as members of the Corporation any persons whom the Council may deem it advisable, in the interests of the Corporation, to elect as members thereof." This provides for unprofessional control, a principle no profession of men would tolerate for a moment. Such a Corporation cannot express Nursing Opinion, and stamps trained nursing as a domestic avocation, and not a profession. This is the policy of the less liberal minded type of medical man, who grasps all official power when possible in a Nurses' Association. This form of control has for 20 years been in force in the Royal British Nurses' Association, and has eliminated all sense of professional responsibility from amongst the Nurse members, who upon the recommendation of its medical managers have voted without asking one question to cease to exist. The College has also adopted the same undesirable system of control.

4. Q. Why are Irish Nurses only permitted six seats on the Council of 45, and why are the majority of votes controlled by the Matrons of large London and English County Hospitals?

A. We do not know upon what basis national representation on the Council has been calculated. The present constitution of the College Council provides that the Matrons of English hospitals will control Irish Matrons and Nurses.

5. Q. Why are other branches of Women's work

connected with hospitals, other than Nursing, to be controlled by a Nursing College?

A. The present College is a lay foundation. The new Bye-laws provide for unlimited lay membership of the R.B.C.N. It is not a professional Corporation, and therefore there is no valid reason against including all the domestic departments of women's work in a hospital in its activities.

6. Q. Why are all the Hon. Officers of the Nursing College men, and why are Deputations on Nursing matters received by these gentlemen with no Matron or Nurse present?

A. All the Hon. Officers of the College are men, because the real promoters are determined if possible to control the economic condition of independent Nurse wage earners, when off the Institution pay sheet, who are now free agents. Thus they alone have received all Deputations from various Bodies for the discussion of Nursing affairs.

Miss Cox-Davies and Miss Rundle have signed an "official" reply to this question in which they state (1) "The Hon. Officers were appointed by the desire of the Council, and were specially selected for their business capacity and sympathetic attitude towards Nursing matters."

As a matter of fact these gentlemen accepted office before the Council was legally constituted, and the Matrons who have a preponderating vote on the Council supported the wrong principle of male official control of the Nursing Profession in the so-called College of Nursing. Surely if amongst the ladies who have been nominated to govern us, there is not one who is endowed with sufficient "business capacity"—or "sympathy towards Nursing matters," to fit her for office, the sooner they make way for colleagues who have proved themselves amply endowed with these talents and virtues the better!

(2) The official reply also states "Deputations desired to be received by the Chairman." This is not correct in every instance, and even if it is true that in some instances Deputations to the College of Nursing preferred to bargain with the Hon. Officers, to the exclusion of Nursing opinion (although we cannot learn of any such stipulation having been made) it is an autocratic and dangerous precedent to establish, for which we must blame the Matrons on the Council, who profess to have accepted office to guard the interests of the Nursing Profession.

7. Q. How can an Institution be democratic which is controlled by a Royal President, and a nominated Council which has ignored the Trained Nurses' organizations?

A. A Corporation so governed cannot possibly be democratic. A Royal President issues "orders" and "commands," and it is not etiquette to neglect to obey, to criticise, or oppose them. The past history of the R.B.N.A. provides ample proof of this contention, and the recent action of Queen Mary in resigning the Patronship of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, not from lack of sympathy, but because

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