

she wisely holds herself aloof from political discussion, as every member of the Royal Family should do, shows her admirable good sense.

The proposed R.B.C.N. is an autocratic Corporation in letter and in spirit, and it is mockery to mention "democracy" in reference to it. Those nurses who value liberty of conscience, liberty of speech, and liberty of action, will remain outside its despotic control in the hope of finally helping to secure a just and democratic system of organization through a Nurses' Registration Act.

The other questions addressed to us we shall answer next week.

### IRISH NURSES AND THE PROPOSED ROYAL BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSING.

The Conjoint Board of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ireland have appointed a Committee to examine and discuss the Royal British College of Nursing scheme as it affects Ireland. A meeting was held last week. The names include Dr. O'Carroll, and Mr. Wm. Taylor, Presidents of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons respectively, Colonel Sir Arthur Chance, M.D.; Dr. Rowlette, Dr. George Peacocke, Surgeon De Courcy Wheeler, Dr. McDowel Cosgrave, and Major Dawson. Their recommendations will be issued immediately.

The *Weekly Irish Times* continues to devote space to the Nursing Question, and it is a pity English and Scottish papers of like standing continue to boycott the trained nurses' point of view. From first to last the London papers have treated professional opinion with quite unjustifiable bias, inserting the views of influential "antis" and ruthlessly excluding those of the registration rank and file. Now that many of the former profess conversion, the same interested snobbery continues, "registration" is permissible, but never the opinion of the working nurse concerning her own affairs.

We are glad to note that "Shamus" last week expresses in the *Irish Times* the opinion that "until the various issues are set forth in some clear and simple way, and presented to the rank and file for their consideration, it will be extremely difficult if not impossible, to arrive at an intelligent opinion as to what sort of institution Irish nurses desire to see established."

One thing is certain Irish Nurses do not wish to be governed by any institution, the Rules and Regulations of which they are not permitted to discuss, agree to, and help to control, as provided in the present Constitution of the College of Nursing, Limited, and in the proposed Bye Laws of the Royal British College of Nursing, which have been drafted without consulting them, and from membership of which they can be removed by an unprofessional Council without power of appeal from its despotic decree.

The Irish Nurses' Association has considered

and agreed to the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses drafted by the Central Committee. In it they claim the right to an independent General Nursing Council to deal with their professional affairs, a principle incorporated by Parliament in the Medical, Midwives, and Teachers' Acts. Sooner or later the nominated and very unrepresentative Council of the proposed R.B.C.N. will have to realise that British Nurses are out against coercion in any form, and that they do not intend to submit to it any more than they did to the tyrannical rule of the Hon. Officers of the R.B.N.A. in the nineties, when several nurses sought and obtained protection in Courts of Law.

### POOR LAW NURSES AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

The Kent Branch of the National Poor-Law Officers' Association decided at its recent meeting at Chatham to endeavour to enlist the assistance of Matrons and Superintendent Nurses in the Branch to urge the nurses to join the Association in order that they might be properly represented by those who are watching their interests in connection with the College of Nursing.

At a Meeting of the London and District Branch of the Association Mr. Dawes said there was somewhat of a deadlock with the College of Nursing, Limited, as the Council had not admitted either the Association or the Poor-Law Unions Association to representation on the newly proposed Council. Poor Law Associations in the Provinces realised the seriousness of the question, and some seven or eight Nurses' Sections had been established. Unless the promoters of the College of Nursing satisfied the aspirations of the employers of Nurses their Bill when introduced into Parliament would not be unopposed but would be opposed by the Poor Law Unions Association and perhaps also by the National Associations of Poor Law Unions.

The whole mistake is in the compilation of a voluntary register. The Bill first, a three years' open term of grace, no injustice done, then build up on sound standards a worthy profession of nursing. We fear the Registration Fee beguiled the real promoters of the College Scheme, who are known to be keen financiers where the control of nurses' money is concerned.

Unless the nurses found the funds the whole Nursing College Scheme was doomed to failure. The endowment of nursing education cannot be expected to succeed in the middle of war. No such scheme should be appealed for as we want every penny to win the war.

### A DUET.

Both Lord Knutstord and Miss Lückes have sung a doleful ditty on the College of Nursing, and issued letters to Nurses trained at the London Hospital, advising them not to join. Now they have signed a conjoint Memorandum in which

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