

IRISH NURSES AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION.

It is probable that the Nursing College controversy in Ireland may arrange itself on a national basis—as it is probable that the Medical Faculty as represented by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons will in co-operation with Irish Nurses form a Nursing Board and confer Diplomas on Irish Nurses. We sincerely hope this may be the happy solution to an anomalous situation. It is impossible to contemplate Irish Nurses—or let us hope Scottish Nurses for long—being satisfied to be governed educationally from London. Nothing could be more inelastic and cramping to educational development than the suggestion that one academic institution is to serve the whole British Nursing World—and could only have emanated from the brains of persons suffering from megalomania. That this little coterie of self-elected persons were also to govern the whole profession with a nod and a wink throughout the United Kingdom, without appeal, is preposterous and dangerous, both from the view of educational progress and individual evolution, and we congratulate the Irish Nurses Association on claiming professional responsibility.

Miss Cox-Davies and Miss Rundle sign a letter in the last *Weekly Irish Times* headed "Points for Irish Nurses." They do not think it would serve any useful purpose to reply in further detail to the letters of the Honble. Albinia Brodrick and Miss Beatrice Kent. They write that "All great movements—and we may justly claim the College of Nursing is one—have their irreconcilable opponents. Under these circumstances questions are not always asked with the object of obtaining information, equally the answers when given are quite often only used to form the subject of further controversy."

When we realise that this discourteous statement is addressed by the representatives of a Company of laymen to the most deeply respected professional women in Ireland, whose unselfish devotion to the welfare of their profession is appreciated throughout the world, one cannot congratulate these advocates either on their ethical standards or their good taste.

Moreover we consider the following statement misleading and unwarrantable. "The College of Nursing, in addition to its educational work, is by means of its voluntary register forming (perhaps we should more rightly say has formed) the electorate through which the voice of the worker herself can be heard."

"The worker" has been determinedly excluded by the nominated Council of the College from expressing an opinion on the qualifications for this voluntary register. By what right therefore has it presumed to define our professional electorate? This is the basic fact in relation to the College controversy which Irish Nurses have had the wit to grasp, and which no amount of prolix

argument can confuse. Irish Nurses are not to be shooed into the economic compound. A fair field and no favour is their justifiable ambition. We feel sure they will attain it.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LIMITED.

IN FORMA PAUPERIS.

We are informed by the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., that they feel they have now reached the stage at which steps should be taken to raise an Endowment Fund for the College.

It is intended that a fund shall be raised in connection with the Endowment Fund for Nurses in ill-health, or who—through no fault of their own—have fallen upon evil days.

A charitable appeal for needy nurses is, of course, more likely to appeal to the public than one for an educational endowment in war time.

We believe a bevy of titled women have the matter under consideration, who have been successful in raising large sums of money for War Charities. The self respecting element in the Nursing Profession naturally bitterly resents being thus utilised *in forma pauperis*, in support of the College scheme—by women who have no right to interfere with their professional affairs.

THE IRISH BOARD.

The Secretary of the College sends for publication the following lists of doctors and Matrons nominated to form an Irish Board to govern the nursing profession in Ireland. The majority of the Matrons have formed the active anti-registration party until now—and it goes without saying that not one Sister or independent Nurse has been nominated for office.

DUBLIN.—Miss Chisholm, Act. Supt., Irish Branch Q.V.J.I.N.; Miss Eddison, Matron, Royal City of Dublin Hospital; Miss Egan, President, Irish Matrons' Assc.; Miss Hill, Matron, Adelaide Hospital; Miss McGivney, Matron, Mater Misericordiae Hospital; Miss O'Brien, 67, Lower Leeson Street; Miss Phelan, South Dublin Union; Miss Reed, Ivanhoe Nursing Home; Miss Shuter, Ivanhoe Nursing Home; Andrew Beattie, Esq., D.L.; Charles Benson, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.I.; Sir Andrew Horne, M.D.; Alfred R. Parsons, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.P.I.; Geo. Peacocke, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P.I.; John Lumsden, Esq., M.D.

BELFAST.—Miss Bostock, Matron, Royal Victoria Hospital; Miss Curtin, Matron, Mater Infirmorum Hospital; Professor Lindsay, M.D., F.R.C.P.

CORK.—Professor Ashley Cummins, M.D., M.Ch.; Arthur Sandford, Esq., M.D.

WATERFORD.—Miss McDowell, Supt. of Nurses, County Infirmary.

LIMERICK.—Miss Coffey, Matron, Barrington's Hospital.

The Board is not yet complete.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)