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**EDITORIAL.**

**LIBERTY THE SURE SAFEGUARD OF PEACE.**

The message of the Prime Minister of this country to the Russian Premier is one worthy of the head of the Government of a nation in arms in the cause of freedom. Mr. Lloyd George said in part: "I believe that the revolution whereby the Russian people have based their destinies on the sure foundation of freedom, is the greatest service which they have yet made to the cause for which the Allied peoples have been fighting since August, 1914.

"It reveals the fundamental truth that this war is at bottom a struggle for popular government as well as for liberty. It shows that, through the war, the principle of liberty, which is the only sure safeguard of peace in the world, has already won one resounding victory. . . .

"Freedom is the condition of peace, and I do not doubt, that, as a result of the establishment of a stable Constitutional Government within their borders, the Russian people will be strengthened in their resolve to prosecute this war until the last stronghold of tyranny on the continent of Europe is destroyed, and the free peoples of all lands can unite to secure for themselves and their children the blessings of fraternity and peace."

These words find an echo in the hearts of many nurses in the United Kingdom, whose struggle for the organization of their profession for over a quarter of a century, has, at bottom, been a struggle for popular government as well as for liberty. Over and over again this has been apparent. There is no magic in registration if the conditions under which it is carried out are not just, and neither in the government of a nation, nor of a pro-

profession, is domination by an autocracy just, for it excludes recognition of the will of the people, that "government by consent" which is the sure foundation of freedom.

That is the main point at issue between the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses and the College of Nursing, Ltd.—Is the first Governing Body set up under an Act of Parliament to consist of 45 nominated persons, or is this first (or provisional) General Nursing Council—which will frame the rules which the Registered Nurses will have to obey—to include the direct representatives of the self-governing societies of nurses associated together in the Central Committee?

To those who have only recently given their adherence to the principle of State Registration the point may not seem a vital one, but its importance is well understood both by the Central Committee and by the advisers of the Chairman of the Council of the College of Nursing.

This is evident from the fact that, according to Mr. Stanley's promise, the name of the Central Committee, with that of the College of Nursing, was printed in one draft of the Bill promoted by the College, and provision made for the election of an equal number of representatives of both bodies on the first Council. Had no principle been incorporated in this clause there was no reason for it to be altered. But the fact that it conceded to the self-governing societies of nurses freedom to appoint direct representatives on the provisional Council, was sufficient to make the opposition of the forces of re-action on the College Council so strong as to secure its deletion from the College Bill. The principle involved is the principle of professional liberty, and, as with a nation, so with a profession, the principle of liberty is the only sure safeguard of peace.

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