

of the College Co. are all men, thus the nurses are deprived of executive influence and power both in the Association and the College.

5. The "Mysterious Pact" isn't worth the paper it is written on. It is signed by Mr. Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry in their *personal* capacity, not as Hon. Officers of the Council of the College of Nursing; and even in their official capacity, they have no power to pledge the Privy Council or Parliament. Neither do independent practising nurses recognise for a moment that these two gentlemen have any exclusive right to dictate how, or by whom, the Nursing Profession is to be governed in the future. We have nothing to do with their "honour" or their "probity." We claim personal responsibility in the organisation of our own profession. Nursing is a woman's profession, and men have no right to seize and monopolise executive power in its governance.

Our statement in this connection is distorted by the signatories. We repeat what we wrote:—

"For Mr. Paterson to argue that half-a-dozen men may agree how 60,000 practising nurses in this kingdom are to be governed by them in the future without their consent, under an Act of Parliament, is an astounding suggestion of feudalistic despotism." This is what half-a-dozen men are attempting to do through the 'Mysterious Pact.'

Here we have Mr. Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry, Dr. Bezly Thorne, Mr. Comyns Berkeley, Mr. Paterson, and a solicitor, consulting, bargaining, drafting agreements, as to place, power and pelf, in reference to the future government of the Nursing Profession, purporting to pledge the Privy Council and Parliament, deciding for the future electors, whom they shall elect to office, who shall be their salaried officers, and the duties and emoluments of those officials—even going so far as incorporating the pernicious principle of dual control into administrative business!

Are we in the twentieth century or are we not? It seems almost incredible that there are still in our midst a class of men so out of touch with modern nursing thought that they are incapable of realising how obsolete in these democratic days is their patriarchal policy, and how distasteful their patronage.

We regret to find English nurses signing documents for publication, which place them in unfavourable comparison with their more enlightened colleagues, both at home and abroad. Colleagues who at home founded the B.N.A. for the organisation of the nursing profession, in the hope of quickening the sense of personal and professional responsibility amongst its members—and those who, in our Dominions and in the United States of America, have attained such splendid educational and economic results through self-governing co-operation.

The sickly tone of the obsequious effusion under discussion makes one fear that we must look forward to a future generation of enfranchised, well-paid nurses, before we can hope to find

in this country trained nurses at large inspired with a strong sense of professional responsibility and self-respect.

Poverty, economic dependence, and social snobbery have done their demoralising work in the ranks of many working women. May we live to see our nurses free to love Liberty, and with power to attain it.

### ONE REASON WHY NOT.

We have received a copy of the following letter from a Life Member of the R.B.N.A., which she has addressed to the Hon. Medical Secretary:—

57, Talbot Street,  
Southport.

To H. J. PATERSON, Esq.,  
Medical Hon. Secretary,  
R.B.N.A.

SIR,—Seeing that you ask to be pardoned for stating that not a single member of the R.B.N.A. other than Miss Hawkins had enquired about this "mysterious pact," it may be that like myself they knew nothing about it, for up to this I have received *no* notice whatever from the R.B.N.A. that any change was to take place in the Association.

I am, yours truly,  
NURSE R. A. L. CONWAY,  
Life Member of the R.B.N.A.

### VERY WELCOME HELP.

Miss R. A. L. Conway sends 10s. to the Society for State Registration of Nurses—5s. "as a grateful offering for Miss Brey's splendid and helpful letter in the B.J.N. on March 31st, on 'Divine Right,' 2s. 6d. in gratitude to Miss Hawkins for her courage for bringing to light the 'mysterious pact,' and 2s. 6d. in admiration of Miss Beatrice Kent's courage in telling the Secretary of State for War what the majority of thinking women feel about his omission, in his speech at the Albert Hall, to recognise the self-sacrifice and splendid work which trained nurses have done and are doing for the Empire."

### PRIVATE DUTY NURSES.

We like this description better than the term Private Nurses. Time was when private nursing was held in little esteem. That was in the days before the co-operative movement. Now the great responsibility vested in the nurse on private duty has attracted to this branch of nursing many very capable women who find in it full scope for their individual talents. All over the country well managed co-operations are being formed under professional management, and we hear that amongst them the Hull Nurses Co-operation, 88, Spring Street, Hull, of which Miss C. A. Little is Superintendent, is an excellent example and provides plenty of good work.

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