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EDITORIAL.

THE NATION'S FUND FOR NURSES.

It was announced in a Sunday paper on April 22nd that

"From Monday week Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson will transfer 'The Passing of the Third Floor Back' to the Queen's Theatre, and devote the profits of the new season to the 'British Women's Hospital Fund, in aid of the Nation's Fund for Nurses: a Thank-Offering to British Nurses, from the Women of the British Empire.'"

This was a somewhat astounding bit of news, as the profession generally were quite unaware that a Nation's Fund for Nurses was being organized.

As our readers are probably aware, the British Women's Hospital Fund was organized by the Actresses' Franchise League, and is composed almost entirely of members of the dramatic profession, and the efforts of these most patriotic women on behalf of our sick and wounded have been immensely successful. They handed over £100,000 to Her Majesty the Queen, in support of the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers, and have recently secured generous support for the Scottish Women's Hospital Fund.

The announcement of a National Fund for Nurses led us to seek further information on the subject from Lady Cowdray, Hon. Treasurer of the Fund, which has been most kindly and courteously given. The gift is to take the form of an endowment for the College of Nursing. The establishment and endowment of such a College has long been a cherished hope of the members of the self-governing Associations of Nurses which have worked so long and so bravely for their professional enfranchisement, but the dangerous and restricted constitution of the College of Nursing, Ltd., as at present defined, has prevented many nurses from applying for membership. It is not proposed that the College shall be solely an educational body, which might

reasonably appeal for, and accept, endowment from external sources. It also proposes to assume the functions of the governing body of the nursing profession, to take charge of its Register, and to determine whose names may, and may not, be placed on and removed from that Register, and thus allows a lay body to assume a monopoly of control over the educational standards, professional liberties, and economic conditions of trained nurses. We hope therefore that, before this gift to the nursing profession takes final form, the Committee of the British Women's Hospital Fund will confer with the organized members of the profession they desire to benefit, and fully acquaint themselves with the opinions and feelings of trained nurses concerning their own affairs.

We feel sure that the Committee of the British Women's Hospital Fund are actuated by the most generous motives, but, we are not convinced that they possess all the expert information available on the subject.

An educational endowment would be of undoubted benefit to the nursing profession, and indeed we have publicly pleaded for it for the last twenty years. It is not the function of hospital committees to provide an all-round education for nurses. Education is costly, and the public do not subscribe to hospitals in order that nurses may be educated, but in order that the sick may be nursed, and the sole reason from the point of view of hospital committees for establishing nurse-training schools is that they provide the most economical and efficient method of nursing the sick in hospital wards; but such a limitation leaves large gaps in a nurse's education.

In considering the organization of the Nursing Profession in this country, it becomes more and more apparent that it should follow the method adopted by the medical profession.

The definition of educational standards, registration, government and discipline of the profession of medicine is entrusted by the State to the General Medical Council, while the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons in the

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