

seats on its Council without the approval and consent of their committees. They therefore represented Hospital Committees, and not trained nurses, and should the interests of employer and employed clash, the nominated Matrons must obey their Committees or resign. The position was unprofessional and dangerous to the profession at large.

THE NATION'S FUND FOR NURSES.

The President reported that without consulting the feelings or opinions of trained nurses the College of Nursing, Ltd., had approached the British Women's Hospital Committee and invited them to make a charitable appeal for a Benevolent and Endowment Fund for the College (which proposed to monopolise the control of the Nurses' Register), thus presenting the nation's nurses as objects of charity. At any time a charitable appeal for their personal needs was bound to outrage the self-respect of many professional nurses, but during the supreme national crisis of this devastating war it did more—it impugned the patriotism of the Nursing Profession, which was keenly alive to the significance of the struggle, and, moreover, realised as no other class of women could, the appalling suffering entailed upon our Navy and Army, and the vital necessity that every farthing that could be subscribed should be spent in ameliorating the results of the ghastly mutilation, the physical and mental agony of men who were sacrificing life, and all that makes life worth living to save the Empire, and to protect its women and children from a fate worse than death.

Trained nurses were not insensible to the world's terrible tragedy.

Upon the request of colleagues, who, with her, felt outraged in every fibre that in their name such an appeal had been couched, the President reported that she had communicated with the Committee of the British Women's Hospital Fund, and asked that she might be received and speak upon their behalf.

This request was courteously acceded to, and on the previous day she had placed before that Committee the opinions of those trained nurses to whom it was most repugnant that any appeal for public funds should be made for them during the War, when the needs of the sick and wounded, lonely broken-hearted women and orphaned children required all the sympathy, self-denial and every penny the nation could spare from support of War Loans. The endowment of Nursing Education after the war would need consideration, but charitable doles the profession would not accept without emphatic public protest. The nurses had not asked for them, and they strongly objected to any form of patronage being thrust upon them through the initiative of the College of Nursing, Ltd., which had denied representation to the rank and file on its Council, the while demanding the control of their professional Register, and, as a result, the control of the economic condition of the profession at large.

The President reported that she had received a most sympathetic hearing from the British Women's Hospital Committee, and had that morning been assured in a letter from its Chairwoman that "in view of the fact that the Committee do not care to undertake work of a controversial nature, and until such time as the points under consideration have been fully analysed, we have thought it wise to postpone, for the present, any work for the Nurses' Fund."

This announcement was received by those present with sincere relief, and the following resolution was passed unanimously and directed to be conveyed to the British Women's Hospital Committee:—

RESOLUTION.

"The Executive Committee of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses desires to express its sincere thanks to the Committee of the British Women's Hospital Fund for permitting its President to represent its views on the subject of a charitable appeal for the Nursing Profession, and to re-iterate its strong objection to any appeal being made in the name of Trained Nurses during the War, as it feels that every penny available should either be invested in the War Loan, in support of the Government in the prosecution of the War, or subscribed in aid of the sick and wounded sailors and soldiers shattered in health, physically and mentally, owing to their heroic defence of the cause of the Allies."

The meeting then terminated.

MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Secretary.

AN IMPORTANT DEPUTATION.

TRAINED NURSES AND THE LABOUR PARTY.

A deputation of trained nurses, organised by the National Union of Trained Nurses, and representing this Union, the Scottish Nurses' Association and the Irish Nurses' Association, was received on Wednesday afternoon, May 2nd, at the House of Commons by Mr. G. J. Wardle, M.P., Chairman of the Labour Party, on the subject of the State Registration of Trained Nurses and their adequate representation on their governing body.

The deputation was introduced by Mrs. Sidney Webb, who pointed out that a Bill for State Registration of Nurses had been carried through the House of Lords in 1908, and in 1914 a similar measure was endorsed by a large majority of the House of Commons, but further proceedings were suspended by the war. In 1916 a quite different scheme was started by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., under the guise of a College of Nursing, the fundamental objection to which is that it sets up a Council which, for the first two years, is not to include direct representation of the nurses themselves, or their associations. The nurses and their associations object most strongly to this lack of representation for the vital period

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