

A "MISLEADING" PETITION.

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Sir Henry Burdett has therefore started a Petition to the Prime Minister under the heading of "The College of Nursing, Limited," in one of his publications for nurses. The Burdett nurses are to petition for "direct representation on a democratic basis," "as provided . . . by the College of Nursing, Limited," and further they are to protest "against the attempt to mislead the Prime Minister as to actual facts, feelings and wishes of the overwhelming majority of British Nurses," without being informed by whom and by what means our astute Premier is to be hoodwinked. But that is a detail of no importance to those nurses who are content to follow the standards of the commercial nursing press. The dignity of the College of Nursing is involved in this movement; it has already suffered severely through the methods of its press partisans, which have alienated the sympathies of hundreds of self-respecting women during the past year.

CORRESPONDENCE ON THE QUESTION.

The following correspondence has taken place between the Secretaries of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses and the College of Nursing, Limited.

The Society for the State Registration of
Trained Nurses,

431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1,
May 25th, 1917.

DEAR MISS RUNDLE.—On page 128 of the *Nursing Mirror* of May 26th a form of Petition to the Prime Minister appears headed, "The College of Nursing, Limited." I shall be obliged if you will let me know whether the Petition emanates officially from the College of Nursing or whether it is issued by the Editor of the *Nursing Mirror* on his own responsibility.

Will you kindly let me have a reply at your earliest convenience?

Yours very truly,

MARGARET BREAY, *Hon. Secretary.*

Miss M. S. Rundle, R.R.C.,
Secretary, College of Nursing, Ltd.

The College of Nursing, Limited,
6, Vere Street, Cavendish Square,
London, W. 1.

May 26th, 1917.

DEAR MISS BREAY.—In answer to your letter of the 25th inst., with reference to the Petition in the *Nursing Mirror* of May 26th, 1917, I would inform you that it was published independently of the College of Nursing, Limited, and without consultation or discussion with Members of the Council, or any official in connection with the College.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

M. S. RUNDLE, *Secretary.*

Miss M. Breay,
Hon. Secretary Society for the State
Registration of Trained Nurses.

It is to be hoped the College of Nursing will have the courage to compel Sir Henry Burdett to cease "misleading" the nursing profession, the public and the Prime Minister by using its name without its consent in connection with his ridiculous Petition. The interference of this hospital newspaper proprietor in our professional affairs has long been the curse of the nursing world in this country.

WHO WROTE IT?

We note that the obsequious letter, signed by twenty-three nurse members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and sent to this journal as a reply to our criticisms on the "Mysterious Pact" episode, is reproduced in its official organ for May. Of course, our criticism and reply are not republished. But what is of real interest to the members of the R.B.N.A. is, "Who Wrote It?" As we stated at the time, we were informed that none of the doughty twenty-three had composed this elegant effusion—that it was read to them and they signed it. Is this report true or not? Anyway, it appears unfair to deprive the author of the credit due—so that the members may estimate its sentiments at their true value, and acknowledge the literary genius in their midst!

THE IRISH NURSING BOARD.

APPROVED BY THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS,
IRELAND.

The Committee of the Irish Nursing Board meet on Friday this week to consider the Draft By-Laws which are of course "private and confidential," until they have been considered and approved. The Committee is largely composed of women who have for many years devoted much thought and service to the organisation of nursing, especially with a view to safeguarding the interests of Irish nurses, and protecting their right to representation and registration. Thus these women who have conscientiously supported the principle of State Registration for many years, have earned the confidence of their colleagues in Ireland, and we feel sure will have their support when the Register of Irish Nurses is started—it is hoped at an early date.

On the other hand, the Irish Board appointed by the College of Nursing, Limited, on which the majority of the most obstructive anti-registration Matrons and doctors have been nominated, have begun their campaign "whether the nurses want it or not."

Irish nurses will only register with this Company if compelled to do so by their Committees, Matrons and medical staff, and we advise them to read carefully the Constitution of the College before signing away their personal liberty, as the Regulations are not printed on the agreement form.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)