

bluntly that "The College of Nursing has established no claim to be the right body to administer such a fund." Moreover, presumably Miss Ashdown is unaware that there are already numerous "war charities" for nurses. (1) Queen Alexandra's Fund for War Nurses, to which the public has subscribed thousands of pounds, and which helps sick and needy nurses with grants of money; (2) Queen Mary's Hostel for War Nurses, a luxurious hotel in Bedford Place, where nurses can stay, free of all charge, when passing through London or on a visit; (3) several beautiful Convalescent Homes in France, Malta, Salonika, and elsewhere; the Edith Cavell Memorial Home for Nurses, now appealing for an endowment of £30,000; Nurses' Clubs, free, in various cities; the King Edward Homes for Nurses at Clapham and Edinburgh; the King's Coronation Fund in Dublin; and many other helpful schemes. What professional nurses specially dislike in the "Nation's Nurses" appeal is that it has been made in their name, without consulting them, by a Company of laymen, which is also attempting to obtain a monopoly of educational, economic, and disciplinary power over them.

Miss Ashdown writes: "In the underlying quarrel which the Central Committee for State Registration has with the College of Nursing your readers cannot be expected to enter." Why not? It is a very simple proposition, and one the male public would have little difficulty in grasping. Simply, Shall the employer govern the worker without consent? Shall a Company of laymen appeal to the public for funds to enable them to govern a woman's profession, and thrust upon its independent members a system of control of which they disapprove? Members of men's professions, trade unionists, any self-respecting human, can enter into the "underlying" quarrel of such a nature. It is as simple as A B C.

Miss Ashdown continues:—"But certain it is that when nurses in general and the public realise the action which the Central Committee is taking to prevent help being extended to their less fortunate sisters, they will not hold these women excused who allow their jealousy of a younger rival to lead them to such lengths of hostility as to prejudice an appeal so obviously well timed and so needed as the proposed 'Nation's Fund for Nurses.'"

Miss Ashdown is well aware that the Central Committee has taken no part in the "pauperization" controversy. But the self-governing Nurses' Societies are to a woman against

further patronage; they have had enough of its demoralising effects during the war.

If the College of Nursing desires to be a charitable institution, let it accept that position (although the guinea fees paid by nurse members should meet all justifiable expenses of a voluntary organization); but it has no right to make an appeal in the name of the "Nation's Nurses," over 50,000 of whom at least it has no control whatever. We believe in hard work, self-support, mutual help, and independence, and it will be a sad day for the "Nation's Nurses" when they are content with any other professional standard.

SCOTTISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The following Resolution has been sent by the Scottish Nurses' Association to the British Women's Hospital Committee:—

RESOLUTION.

The Executive Committee of the Scottish Nurses' Association desires to express to the Committee of the British Women's Hospital Fund its sincere thanks for the consideration given to the views laid before it by the President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses on the subject of the Nation's Fund for Nurses promoted by the College of Nursing, Limited.

But for difficulties due to time and distance the Scottish Nurses' Association would have sought to be associated with the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses in the representations made to the British Women's Hospital Committee.

Besides the strong reasons against any appeal for money on behalf of trained nurses at the present time, the Scottish Nurses' Association beg to point out that the College of Nursing, Limited, is at present in antagonism to all the organised Nurses' Associations of the three Kingdoms, mainly because the registration of nurses, proposed by the College of Nursing, Limited, is fundamentally different from State Registration of Trained Nurses as understood by every country in which such registration prevails.

In the vocabulary of the College of Nursing, Limited, State Registration means only State recognition of their own register of members. Any fund which could be regarded as, in any way an endowment to the College of Nursing, Limited, would be only endowing resistance to the genuine State regulation of Nurses' training and registration which the trained nurses of the United Kingdom have fought for during a quarter of a century, and which is one of the chief aims, if not indeed the chief aim, of all the organised Nurses' Associations of the Kingdom.

(MRS.) REBECCA STRONG (Trained Nurse),
President.

MARGARET R. STEWART (Trained Nurse)
Hon. Secretary.

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