

The *Sunday Times* again publishes a whole column of letters on "The Nation's Fund for Nurses" question. Miss Ashdown returns to the ardent advocacy of the fund, and goes for Miss Eden, Miss Paterson, Miss Hawkins, and Miss Cartwright, all of whom objected to charitable control by the College in last week's issue.

Miss Vera Matheson, the Secretary of the Irish Board of the College, who writes from Dublin, questions Miss Macleod Moore's contention that this charitable appeal does not strike at the root of the economic dependence of nurses. She writes that "it is because the College of Nursing has been formed for the purpose of striking at the root of the matter that it has earned the right to make an appeal on behalf of the nursing profession."

A strange argument indeed. How has it earned it, and what right has a Company of laymen to assume control of a women's profession, and appeal in their name for financial support without their consent?

Miss Macleod Moore never made a more astute statement than when she pointed out that it is only the workers who can effect economic reforms for themselves. Moreover, they have never invited "men and women of ripe experience to give either their time or their brains to the betterment of their conditions"—as contended by Miss Matheson. That interference has been thrust upon them. What Irish nurses have claimed, and will continue to claim, is the right to organize their own professional affairs, as trained nurses all over the world are doing. They will obey no nominated Councils, nor any of their officials, of whom Miss Vera Matheson is one.

Miss M. A. Bompas misquotes THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and incidentally gives us an excellent advertisement; and Miss M. Breay patriotically plumps for "Fighting Men First."

In the meanwhile the College representatives, amongst them Miss Cox-Davies, have personally urged the British Women's Hospital Committee to continue its charitable appeal for nurses. Before consenting to do so, we consider the Committee must assure itself that this vast amount of pauperism is really existent in our ranks. Take the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, of which Miss Cox-Davies is President, for an example. It numbers 1,000 members; it has a confidential Benevolent Fund. It was reported last year that not one application for help had been made!

SCOTTISH NURSES AND STATE REGISTRATION.

A meeting of the Executive Committee and members of the Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland was held in the Gartshore Hall, George Street, Edinburgh, on Thursday, May 31st. The following resolution, passed at the meeting held on November 24th, 1916, was reaffirmed:—"That the Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland protests against the action of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses in London in determining (1) to break off negotiations with the College of Nursing (Limited) at a time when unanimity of action seemed so hopeful, and (2) to proceed with its own bill without having first consulted the members of the associations represented on the Central Committee in view of the fact that substantial progress in the negotiations between the two bodies towards an agreed bill seems to have been achieved."

It was because the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., failed to keep its agreement with the Central Committee that negotiations were broken off, for which the representatives of the Association for the Promotion of Registration of Nurses in Scotland who have seats on the College Council are in part responsible. The Central Committee declined to be dictated to by Members who have accepted office on the College Council, and recorded their decision by 20 votes to 2.

COERCION OF NURSES. RIGHT OF APPEAL TO THE PRIME MINISTER DISCOURAGED.

The Executive Committee of the Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland (composed almost entirely of hospital officials), following on a meeting in Edinburgh, strongly recommend members of the Association not to sign any petition to the Prime Minister such as is at present being circulated by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

The Petition appeals to the Prime Minister for direct representation of the Nurses on any Provisional Council set up by Parliament to make the Rules to which the Nurses will have to conform, a Right denied to the Nurses by the Council of the College in its Registration Bill.

CITIZENSHIP FOR WOMEN.

Now that Parliament has reassembled the Electoral Reform Bill is soon to be taken in hand. The sooner the Bill passes through all its stages and becomes law the better. Once enfranchised, women will be inspired with more self-respect and a greater sense of personal responsibility than the majority now possess; and they will not have to cast their sweetness politically on the desert air. The nursing controversy for the past quarter of a century would long ago have been satisfactorily settled if the nurses had not been an unenfranchised class.

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