

and Infirmaries." The words in inverted commas are in the Central Committee's Bill, but *not* in the College Bill, which has substituted the expression "Training Schools." Those who have lived in the provinces know that that expression is habitually used by the large body of influential people who conduct Training Schools for District Nurses, at which a nurse may complete her course without once putting her head into a hospital. And those who are behind the scenes are fully cognisant that this danger is a real one, in view of the fact that a deliberate effort has already been made by a member of its own Council, to induce the College to register these cottage nurses.

Then the Circular states that both Bills promote a Central examination for all nurses. The College Bill contains no guarantee whatever that a nurse (after the time of grace) shall not be put on the register without having passed a Central examination.

Here, again, the danger is a very real one when we remember that in the early statements made by the College promoters it was provided that the examination of certain training schools should be accepted in lieu of a Central examination, and provision for this still stands in its Constitution.

Were the Council that is to frame the rules democratically elected, one might leave many details confidently to them, for the opinions of the bodies of nurses that placed them on the Council could be brought to bear.

But the nominated Council proposed by the College would have no restraining or inspiring influence behind them, and would be responsible to no one. These important matters must be guaranteed in black and white.

*Paragraph 4* quite omits to point out that, though the registered Nurses will, under the College Bill, have the right to elect two-thirds of the Permanent Council, not one of these persons so elected *need be nurses*. Those of us who have had experience of the world know that it would be easy to bring influences to bear that would result in the return of a majority of members of Hospital Boards, medical men, and other employers, as the College has organized its Scottish and Irish Boards. This possibility must be guarded against.

*Paragraph 5* claims that the Central Committee's Bill contains too many non-essentials.

In view of the fact that the split with the College occurred because the College would not grant the vital right of representation on the first Council, this argument is beside the point—even if it were correct. The whole fight has been waged round essentials.

What the Council of the College wants is an amiable mollusc of a Bill which they can mould as they will. The Central Committee intends that vital principles shall be firmly established from the first.

*Paragraph 6.*—In paragraph 6 the admission has at last been wrung from the College—as a result of continued insistence on this point by those who were present at the negotiations—that representation was actually promised to the Central Committee, and that this promise was afterwards repudiated. Should we have any confidence in a man who formally undertook to give us a loaf of bread when we were hungry, and who, when we held out our hands for it, said he had been thinking it over, and he was afraid too many other people might be asking for it, and therefore he withdrew the promise? There is a great difference, you say. Yes, there *is*. The Central Committee is demanding justice—not a boon—and therefore the justice of its demands will be recognised by Parliament, whether they are refused by the College or not.

*Paragraph 7* states that "endless trouble" would be caused in Parliament if the bodies which have the right to elect the first Council in the Bill are to be mentioned in it instead of the names of the 45 persons constituting it.

What we ask of the College is: "Give your reasons for making this assertion. Tell us of *one* Act in which the names of a number of persons are mentioned in this way. We can tell you of statutory Councils formed by giving the right of election to organised bodies—the General Medical Council, for one. It is up to you to prove that what you state is correct, and why you depart from precedent and ignore the spirit of the age. That is fair, is it not?"

*Paragraph 8.*—It is rather amusing to plead the ignorance of the whole question of nursing organisation of the average members of Parliament. This is one of the few indisputable statements in the Circular. But it is no justification for making no attempt to enlighten their ignorance. It is not long ago that Mr. Stanley stated, when promoting the College, that there was no general demand for State Registration. He has learnt. May we not also hope that the average member of Parliament may learn that organised societies exist in the Nursing as in other professions, and are pursuing a steadfast purpose. The Circular seems to imply that the M.P. also ignores the British Medical Association, which is a supporter of the Central Committee's Bill. It is obvious that no legislation of the kind under consideration can pass the House if opposed by the B.M.A.

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