

unless it was satisfied that Poor-Law nurses were adequately represented on the Provisional Council that would be the inevitable result. What had been the result up to now of there being such a small representation of the Service? It had been found that when the conditions of the College were issued they had shut out and prevented from becoming enrolled on the College Register thousands of women trained in hospitals recognised by the Local Government Board. It was either done in ignorance or done deliberately. He asked for support to form a Nurses' Section.

A MEMBER ALARMED AT COLLEGE AUTOCRACY.

Mrs. Roberts (Matron of the Walton Infirmary of the West Derby Union, Liverpool), speaking as a trained nurse, and a Matron of a separate hospital of 1,300 beds, which maintained a staff of 140 nurses, said that she was a member of the College. She felt, however, that the Poor-Law trained nurse was not receiving from the College the consideration which was her due. Poor-Law nurses did not ask for favours, but demanded as loud a voice in the management of any body which set out to govern the nursing profession in the United Kingdom as any other class of nurses. She was alarmed at the autocratic attitude of the College of Nursing in regard to the Poor-Law nurses. She appealed for the support of the nurses to the Poor-Law Officers' Association, which was the only body which could help the Poor-Law nurses of this country.

It was unanimously agreed to form a Nurses' Section in Manchester and District.

Boards of Guardians in many districts have decided by resolution to withhold their support and approval in any way to the proposals of the College, until the minimum requirements of the Poor Law Unions Association have been agreed to.

SIR HENRY BURDETT LEAVES THE PRIME MINISTER TO HIS FATE.

We gather, from a verbose statement in one of Sir Henry Burdett's organs for nurses, that he has withdrawn his ridiculous Petition—which he invited his readers to sign *against* the Petition promoted by the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, asking a democratic Prime Minister for direct representation for the nursing profession on any Council set up by Parliament, to make the Rules and Regulations, they would have to obey under a Nurses' Registration Act! The College of Nursing has issued its own autocratic orders to its nurse members, pointing out to them how disadvantageous it would be for nurses to have power to express an opinion on their own professional affairs, and "to leave the College Council free to promote its Bill for the State Registration of Nurses in whatever form may seem most likely to conduce to its speedy acceptance by Parliament." Our demand is that a Nurses'

Registration Bill should be acceptable to the trained nurses themselves, and if they are excluded from expressing an opinion it is very improbable that any nominated Council of employers will promote either just or generous legislation. This free-hand policy emanates from the "anti" in spirit.

THE IRISH NURSING BOARD.

(APPROVED BY THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF IRELAND.)

The Bye-Laws have now been drafted and will be sent to the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland for confirmation. No doubt there is much serious work before the Board, as in Ireland as elsewhere there has been no uniform curriculum of training for nurses in the various hospitals. The City of Dublin Hospital, for instance, has until quite recently only given a two-years' training, and has been the *nidus* of the anti-registration policy in Ireland. Now that it is to be brought up to date, and a three-years' term of training instituted, no doubt the opposition to registration will be modified. Dr. Parsons, and the past and present Matrons, both trained at St. Thomas', London, are supporting the College scheme.

We note that the *Irish Weekly Times* is still giving the College of Nursing, Ltd., spurious rank by calling it the Royal British College of Nursing, and thus misleading Irish Nurses in the matter, and, of course, its Irish Board makes no protest. As to any voluntary Registration Board pretending to have a term of grace, is all nonsense. Whenever a Nurses' Registration Act is in force, there will be a term of grace authorised by Parliament, "whether the College likes it or not," so that the reason given when urging ignorant nurses to register at once, is also misleading. No one will be injured by waiting for State Registration, and not paying for voluntary registration, which, without a Central Examination, is of no practical professional value at all.

CAMP FOR NURSES.

We would remind nurses that the Southern "Camp" of the Nurses' Missionary League, begins Friday, June 22nd, and lasts a week. There is still some room, and any Nurse who could spend an afternoon or a few days at Jordan's Hostel would be welcome. Send a card saying when you can come to Miss Macfee, Jordan's Hostel, near Beaconsfield, Bucks, or come unannounced. The station is Beaconsfield Golf Links Halt, and trains leave Marylebone at 10.30, 12.55, 3.7, and 4.50 (on Saturdays only, also at 2 and 6.35).

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