

example, to settle what Hospitals will be dis-franchised as training schools? There are many very small but very efficient schools, even in Dublin, and I do not for a moment believe that the Irish Medical Profession would, if left to themselves, permit small and inefficient schools to be used for the turning out of properly trained Nurses. This little item is calculated to cause an immense amount of friction if not capably and liberally handled. The Irish Nursing profession and the Irish Medical profession are too proud of their reputation to make an easy side-gate by which candidates, ill qualified, can slip through. The question at issue is in reality not so much the ultimate qualification of the Nurse as the settling of this qualification here. The matter is a delicate one, and calculated to cause a needless impasse, provided that opponents of the College discover a weak spot suitable for the purposes of wrecking it before a case for its establishment has been settled.

#### THE REGISTRATIONISTS.

In Ireland all nurses are Registrationists. I do not by this mean to imply that they are wedded to that party of Registrationists which offer official opposition to the College. There are a few of the leaders, including some of the most highly respected and able women in the country, who have laboured constantly and zealously, never sparing themselves in any circumstances, to uplift the Irish Nursing profession. These are, probably, allied to the opposition, but there is no doubt that their sincerity and fidelity are above reproach or suspicion, and if the College becomes a *fait accompli* they ought to have a foremost place in its counsels. Moreover, they are wholly in favour of a College. The idea of a College, and the idea of Registration, will find unanimous support in this country.

#### THE ACE OF TRUMPS.

Just one other matter. The ladies who are coming here may not be made aware when they arrive that the Irish Nursing profession holds the Ace of Trumps. We never like to appear to be impolite or discourteous, but let there be no mistaking the fact that it is well known and thoroughly appreciated here that it is in the power of Ireland to wreck any Bill brought through Parliament of which they do not approve.

I have been endeavouring week by week in this page, by interviewing prominent members of the Medical Profession and leaders of the Nursing Profession to shed as full light as possible on the situation so that Irish Nurses may be thoroughly prepared for change, or for declining to change. I have opposed the policy of acting and voting and discussing in secret, as I believe that this is the very surest way of keeping the Nurse in stagnant waters. For the same reason I am anxious to inform the advocates of the College of Nursing of our national idiosyncrasies, so that when they come here the air may be clear, and all parties may understand each other. I have detailed the chief difficulties, and, I may add, on

the always troublesome item of finance, I understand that the College have subsidised the Scottish Board, and that any funds collected in Scotland will be ear-marked for that country. The policy to be adopted here will require to be stated. I should also advise the ladies concerned to make clear the vexed question of the V.A.D.s. Speaking for myself, I was at first led to believe that the Registrationists claimed to be the champions of the rights of the trained nurse, and that the promoters of the College were insidiously endeavouring to slip these ladies through, and make them the equals, if not the superiors, of women who had spent their full term of apprenticeship in the wards, and passed all the necessary examinations. Now, I am credibly informed that the championing of the trained Nurse's rights was the motive which inspired the founders and promoters of the College. I think I am speaking the whole truth when I say that Ireland is unbiassed: that it will approach the subject with an open mind, and that the ladies who are coming here to advocate the establishment of the College will serve their cause best by facing the problems which I have enumerated with words that can bear no second meaning, and that cannot leave any ambiguity in the minds of those concerned.

#### POOR LAW INFIRMARY MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

At their last meeting, the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association decided to invite the Supt. Nurses of all those Infirmaries, not at present recognised by the Local Government Board as training schools, to join them as Associates. They would be entitled to send suggestions and questions to any of the meetings. The Association meets quarterly—the last Saturdays in January, March, July, and October. The Executive Committee meet the last Saturday in each month. All questions received would be carefully considered, and any advice or opinion would be sent in reply, that the members were able to give.

Associates would be invited to an open meeting once or twice a year, when their presence would be warmly welcomed. The formation of centres in the provinces where members and associates could meet would be encouraged.

It is hoped that such a scheme should be of material advantage, as it would bring into touch the trained nurses working as Matrons and Supt. Nurses in the different Poor Law Infirmaries.

A large number of letters have already been received from Supt. Nurses wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity. We have been asked to state that if, by mistake, any have been overlooked and have not received an invitation, would they, if they wish to join, kindly communicate with Miss Barton, R.R.C. (President of the Association), Chelsea Infirmary, S.W., or the Hon. Secretary, Miss Alsop, Kensington Infirmary, Marloes Road, W.

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