

ship of which is open to the laity without any financial responsibility, and which proposes to monopolise disciplinary powers, through legal recognition of its Register, over the whole body of nurses in England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, and thus inaugurate a system of economic servitude for trained nurses, throughout the kingdom, with which no class of workers in the community has ever been threatened before.

Mr. Paterson says there is "nothing to conceal." Why therefore was not this correspondence submitted to the Special General Meeting? And why was the letter of Miss H. Hawkins treated with bureaucratic impertinence instead of receiving a straightforward reply?

We are of opinion that the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. voiced by its medical officers, had no right whatever to attempt to extract promises and pledges from Mr. Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry, whose jurisdiction to govern the nursing profession by divine right is not conceded, thus they have no authority to pledge any Council set up by the Privy Council, or to pledge Parliament as to the constitution of any Statutory Authority it may be pleased to legalise in a Nurses' Registration Bill.

For Mr. Paterson to argue that half-a-dozen autocratic men may agree how the 60,000 practising nurses in this Kingdom are to be governed by them in the future, without their consent, under an Act of Parliament, is an astounding suggestion of feudalistic despotism, that we can well imagine these gentlemen intended to keep secret, and if there is only one woman of spirit left in the R.B.N.A. (as we gather from Mr. Paterson's admission), who, determined not to be controlled like a fool, has secured publicity, let us thank God for her. The letter of Mr. Sydney Pitt, the solicitor, appears to us, as no doubt it did to Mr. Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry, a very injudicial document. All the parties to the agreement realise that "the new Council" cannot be bound, and what Mr. Paterson calls the "mysterious pact," was blithely signed under these conditions. It remains to be seen how far Parliament will sanction these egregious demands.

The true inwardness of this "mysterious pact" is that in return for security of tenure for the Hon. Officers of the R.B.N.A. and their supporters on the Council of the proposed Royal British College of Nursing, and later on the Governing Body under any Bill for the Registration of Nurses it may promote, the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. have advised the members to sacrifice their *professional* Association, and practically hand over their hardly won Royal Charter to the College of Nursing, we presume this is the one point which Mr. Paterson omitted to mention at the meeting, to which he refers in his letter. Four of its Hon. Officers: Dr. Bezly Thorne, Mr. Comyns Berkeley, Mr. Herbert Paterson, and Mrs. Campbell Thomson, have already secured for themselves seats on the first nominated Council of

the feudal phoenix to arise from the ashes of our old liberties.

We commend to the intelligent minority of the nursing profession, the careful consideration of the foregoing correspondence, and invite them to decide whether or no they approve of the methods by which this little oligarchy of men intend to subjugate the whole nursing profession, and break it on the wheel of despotism.

Once more we ask how are the Matrons on the College Council protecting the interests of the rank and file, whom they have excluded from direct representation on that body?

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## NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

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### A LITTLE PAMPHLET FOR BUSY NURSES.

Miss E. L. C. Eden has issued a most valuable little pamphlet on "The National Union of Trained Nurses and the College of Nursing." "I have been asked," she writes, "to explain why the Union criticised the action of the College and opposed some of the clauses of its Bill for State Registration." This she does with admirable lucidity, and she makes it quite clear that the N.U.T.N. did not oppose the College as an educational body, but on the contrary, welcomed it in a perfectly friendly spirit. It was only when the College claimed to promote State recognition and to act as a statutory body, with disciplinary powers, "that our duty to our members compelled us to take action."

Miss Eden gives a brief little survey of the history of Registration, and emphasises the policy of the College in this connection, and asks, "As the College Authorities have so firmly discarded the opinion of the rank and file of nurses and encouraged that of bodies of employers, is it surprising that it should be regarded as a body representing the latter rather than the former?"

Miss Eden firmly demands the right that the Nurses' Societies who have all along promoted registration and the B.M.A. "should have the right accorded them *in the Bill* to appoint representatives on the first Council under the Bill.

The professional right of direct representation is provided under the Medical and Midwives Acts, and the practising nurses will stand or fall by it.

Miss Eden also considers that such vital matters as that a nurse should have been trained in a hospital before she is qualified to go on the Register, and that there shall be one Central examination, require *guaranteeing* in the Bill—as they are in that promoted by the Central Committee—and *neither of which is guaranteed in the Bill promoted by the College of Nursing, Ltd.*

This excellent little pamphlet can be procured from the N.U.T.N., 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1, 1s. a dozen post free. It is concise, and gives busy nurses just the information they require and have time to read.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)