

to the very best advantage for the benefit of sick, wounded and broken men injured in our defence. The Chairwoman of the Committee promised to inform us if, in spite of the protest of fully-trained nurses, the charity scheme for nurses was to be persisted in. So far we have no further information on the matter. We may, however, conclude that the Nursing Profession does not intend without protest to be made an object of derision as suggested by the writer in the *Daily Sketch*, who, apparently, concludes it is composed entirely of congenital idiots.

LATE PRIME MINISTER TO BLAME.

One Matron writes: Dear Editor, I expect you have seen the enclosed cutting from the *Daily Sketch* of to-day's date. What next? Personally, I feel quite competent to "generally look after" myself, without the supervision of "that extremely capable young lady, Miss Elizabeth Asquith." If her father had not persistently refused the petitions of "fully trained nurses" for legal status when he was Prime Minister, and had the power to have their Registration Bill passed into law, the nurses in this country would now be in a position to manage their own affairs as they are quite able to do, instead of being the sport of everyone who is eager to patronise them for a *quid pro quo*."

WHY NOT EARLSWOOD?

A Sister says: Please deal with enclosed paragraph. Why not under the heading of "Out of the Mouths of Babes and Sucklings"? Also, would it not be more economical to hire Earlswood Asylum for the internment of the whole nursing profession, of which this "great organizer" might be Lady Superintendent. No pensions would then be required and we should have plenty of time to "rest." My age is twenty-five; what a vista of leisured ease for the rest of my natural days! The attitude of the press towards trained nursing is as insulting as it is absurd."

MATRONS RESPONSIBLE FOR FRESH HUMILIATION.

A fully-trained nurse writes: Apparently we "fully-trained nurses" have not yet reached the nethermost depths of humiliation to which we have been subjected. Has the lady in question been added to the College Council? I presume so, as she has got this "very large new enterprise in hand." What are the College Matrons doing in the matter? or are they with "other fully-trained nurses" to be "generally looked after"? Considering that they are pushing this charity appeal, which has brought this fresh humiliation upon us, a good many of the rank and file are of opinion that they need it."

Lack of space forbids further quotes. We sympathise with the expressions of indignation contained in many letters received at the offensive attitude of the press towards our profession.

We have invited information from Miss Elizabeth Asquith, as we cannot believe she desires to make herself ridiculous by meddling with professional affairs concerning which she is not qualified to interfere.

LETTER FROM MISS ELIZABETH ASQUITH.

As we go to press we have received the following letter from Miss Elizabeth Asquith in reply to our enquiries:—

"Miss Asquith presents her compliments to the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING and imagines that the paragraph in question must refer to the fact that she is a member of the British Women's Hospital Committee, which has accepted Sir Arthur Stanley's invitation to collect funds for the College of Nursing. She never at any time contemplated launching a scheme of her own."

We hope to give further information on this matter next week.

POOR-LAW UNIONS' ASSOCIATION AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

The Parliamentary Committee of the Association of Poor-Law Unions will present a report to the meeting of the Council of the Association, which was to be held in London on Thursday, this week, relating to the College of Nursing. The report is in the following terms:—

"Your Committee beg to report that in accordance with the decisions of the Council at the last meeting, a circular letter was sent to the Boards of Guardians (1) advising the Guardians to withhold their support or approval in any way of the proposals of the College of Nursing, Ltd., pending acceptance by the promoters of the Royal British College of Nursing, which is in process of formation, of the minimum requirements of this Association or any modification thereof agreed to by the Association; (2) suggesting that with the object of supporting the National Association of Poor-Law Officers the Guardians would be justified in urging all their nurses to sign the petition which was being prepared for the purpose of a combined request that Poor-Law nurses should be secured adequate representation on the Provisional Council of the College.

"Your Committee were informed that Boards of Guardians generally were intimating their willingness to carry out the wishes of the Council in both respects.

"Your Committee were informed that the Hon. A. Stanley, M.P., in a personal interview with the Secretary, had intimated his own intention of doing everything possible to secure vacancies for representatives to be selected by this Association upon the Council of the Royal British College of Nursing, which would be formed as soon as the amalgamation of the College of Nursing, Ltd., with the Royal British Nurses' Association should be accomplished; but that the Privy Council were still considering the application for the necessary Supplemental Charter.

"Your Committee gave the necessary directions

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)