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EDITORIAL.

THE BRITISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL COMMITTEE AND THE SUBJUGATION OF THE NURSING PROFESSION.

It is becoming daily more apparent that the independent section of the Nursing Profession intends to make its strong opposition heard to the determined attempt to pauperise it through the Nation's Fund for Nurses; the appeal in support of which has been issued by the British Women's Hospital Committee, upon the invitation of the College of Nursing, Ltd.

The British Women's Hospital Committee originally formed by members of the Actresses' Franchise League, in conjunction with a sprinkling of titled women, has a record of patriotic work to its credit. It was formed to help the nation's sick and wounded, and has materially contributed to the alleviation of their sorrow and pain.

In an evil hour for the nursing profession Viscountess Cowdray, the Hon. Treasurer, and Miss May Whitty, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, became obsessed with the idea of including the Nursing Profession in their charitable schemes, having been invited to ask alms from the public upon the behalf of the Endowment and Benefit Funds of the College of Nursing, Ltd.

At first no doubt these ladies were ignorant of the fact that trained nurses are a self-respecting and self-supporting professional class, and that their self-governing organizations are strongly opposed to the autocratic Constitution of the College Company, composed as it is entirely of laymen, and of many reactionary officials of hospitals, whom they have nominated to govern the rank and file without their consent.

But Viscountess Cowdray and her Committee were not long left in ignorance of

the true feelings of the organized nurses. The danger of their interference in the educational and especially in the economic conditions of the nursing profession, of which they were supremely ignorant, was clearly placed before the British Women's Hospital Committee by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and for a time they hesitated to violate the feelings of a sister profession.

Later, however, after a meeting in support of the scheme at the residence of Viscountess Cowdray, it was decided to ignore the views of the *workers* and appeal for charity upon their behalf in support of the *employers'* Company.

THE PRESS BOYCOTT.

During these *pourparlers*, certain members of the Committee ventured to express the opinion that adverse comment in the press might prove injurious to their policy—and we believe they were assured that “there would be no controversy!”

When the appeal for funds was made whole columns of advertisements, in most unprofessional and distasteful terms, flooded the principal newspapers! Trained nurses, who objected to an appeal for alms upon their behalf, made in their name without their consent, calculated to place their profession under the control of a Limited Liability Company, expressed their views to the editors of the papers in question—their letters were either pitched into the waste-paper basket or returned. The London press ruthlessly excluded the opinions of the Nation's Nurses on their own affairs.

The refusal of newspapers, inserting highly paid advertisements in support of the Fund, to permit their readers to know the true feeling of the nurses is, in our opinion, evidence of a monstrous and most dangerous despotism—against which

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