

The Nation's Fund for Nurses was the latest effort to gain control of the profession through financial power. Miss Paterson pointed out that the College had pledged Parliament that when the Nurses' Registration Bill became law, those whose names were on the College Register would be recognised by the State without any further fee or formality, and had taken a guinea from each member as registration fee; she wondered how many nurses would ever see their money or its equivalent, and remarked that in the commercial world merchants sued contractors for non-delivery of goods.

THE GAGGED PRESS.

Miss Paterson complimented the Glasgow press on their impartiality, mentioning that the *Evening Citizen* had lately published fully a letter of hers entirely antagonistic to their own leader of a few evenings previous. This was a pleasant contrast to the gagged London press which was at the command of employers of nurses. The *Observer* lately, she knew, had refused several letters against the "Nation's Fund for Nurses," which scheme it advocated. Nurses were advised to read *THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*, a professional paper which published both sides of all questions.

The Marchioness of Ailsa begged leave to thank both the speakers. She referred to the high standard set by Miss Brodrick, and suggested to the nurses that they think about all Miss Brodrick had said on the responsibility and dignity of their calling. She thanked Miss Paterson for the clear way in which she stated the reasons why she and many other nurses refused to join the College of Nursing, Ltd. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Executive Members of the Association, and to Miss Stewart, the Hon. Secretary, for her untiring efforts on behalf of the Association.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

By command of H.R.H. the President, a Special General Meeting of the Corporation will be held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., on Wednesday, December 12th, at 2.30 p.m.

Agendum.—To receive an account of the negotiations which have taken place between the Corporation and the College of Nursing, Ltd., since the last Special Meeting, held on January 18th, 1917, and of the reasons which led the Council on September 27th to pass the Resolution twice circulated to the Members, and to ascertain whether the action of the Council has met with the approval of the members.

During December the Camera Club (17, John Street, Adelphi, W.C. 2) is showing an exhibition of black-and-white drawings by patients and staff of the Third London General Hospital. These drawings form a unique collection illustrating the humours of ward life as seen by the wounded. Admission, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., is free. Tickets can be obtained from any member of the club, or on application to the Hon. Sec.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD., AND THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The following letter has been sent by the Secretary of the College of Nursing to the Royal British Nurses' Association:—

6, VERE STREET,
CAVENDISH SQUARE, W. 1.
November 3rd.

The Secretary, the Royal British Nurses' Association, 10, Orchard Street, W.

DEAR MADAM,—In view of the delay and inconvenience resulting from the course of action pursued by your Council, the Council of the College has carefully considered whether it is now in the interests of its members to proceed further with the scheme for the amalgamation of the two Associations.

After nearly a year's experience of the dilatory manner in which proceedings have been conducted by your Association with the Privy Council, my Council has reluctantly reached the conclusion that there is at the present time little evidence of any real desire on the part of your Council to amalgamate with the College, even though the project of amalgamation was welcomed by your members and we have conceded everything asked by you. The alterations suggested by the Privy Council in the Supplemental Charter and Bye-laws, do not, in our judgment, modify that document as agreed between us in any substantial sense.

The Charter of the Royal British Nurses' Association, as it stands, gives to your Corporation powers which are admittedly quite inadequate to the present needs of the nursing profession, and the Supplemental Charter was, therefore, a necessity if the Royal British College of Nursing was to possess such powers as the College already has under its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Anxious as my Council is that the College of Nursing should be established at the earliest possible date on a representative basis, it nevertheless, in its desire to meet the demands of your Association, consented to accept the proviso that, as a condition of the amalgamation, the joint Council set out in the Supplemental Charter should hold office for two years. This has already proved a serious impediment to the College in its policy of securing State Registration for Nurses, and my Council prefers to abide by the terms of its own constitution, under which the Council becomes elective in April next.

It was undoubtedly of some importance to the College in its early days to seek to ally itself with your Association, just as it was of importance for your Association to obtain enlarged powers, the new infusion of energy, and increased membership, which would have come about by the establishment of the amalgamated bodies as the Royal British College of Nursing; but as the College of Nursing has now become well known, and as an

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