

## TWO NURSING PARTIES.

The two Parties in the Nursing World are at last becoming clearly defined. It is well, as nothing is so distracting as ambiguity, and when a Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses at last gets a hearing in the Commons, the Nurses as well as their employers will have their own Bill considered, or at least their policy and claims put forward, and will no doubt, as was the case in the Lords, be able to prevent penalising legislation, such as that incorporated in the Nurses' Directory Bill, secretly drafted by London hospital governors.

The Nurses' Bill (Central Committee) provides for power to make the Rules they will have to obey; the Employers' Bill (College of Nursing, Ltd.) purposely deprives the nurses of any such power.

The Nurses' Party claim adequate self-government, free from coercion, and power of self-support.

The Employers' Party demand practical control of the Nursing Profession, through their paid officials who are not themselves economically independent, and charitable support for the Nurses' Governing and Educational Authority.

The Nurses claim their bodies and souls are not for sale.

Why should this good old British policy enrage the "Antis," so that week by week the "College" press pours its frothy wrath upon those, like ourselves, who have consistently stood for State Organization of Nursing?

We have been informed so often by the Burdett press that the wonderful creative genius of the Honble. Sir Arthur Stanley evolved the idea of a Nursing College in the year of grace 1915!

Why commit the *betise* therefore of quoting printed matter which disproves this claim? The Burdett press in its weekly attack on the pachydermatous Editor of this journal quotes a printed speech made by us at Buffalo sixteen years ago, in 1901, in which we advocated, as we have done for a quarter of a century, "The establishment of educational centres for nurses, their endowed colleges, their Chairs of Nursing, their University degrees, and State Registration." To read the nonsense written on this subject by the College sycophants, one would be led to believe that its advocates originated the suggestion of a College for Nurses! whereas, as proved by its official organ, the State Registrationists had adopted higher collegiate nursing education as one of their fundamental planks twenty-five years ago! Moreover, they still hope to see their aspirations realised.

But our demand has always been, and continues to be, for academic institutions, analogous to other teaching bodies, and not for a hybrid institution calling itself a College of Nursing—governed by laymen, purporting to teach what they do not know, combined with autocratic powers of disciplinary control over professional

women, and financially dependent on Society Charities. This is not our idea of either the functions or organization of a College of Nursing—as its constitution appears to us as dangerous to professional efficiency as to personal liberty.

We mean in the future to have our Colleges of Nursing, let us hope in England, Scotland and Ireland; but we do not mean to empower (and are supported by the Privy Council in this connection) a Limited Liability Company of laymen to secure a monopoly of authority and disciplinary control over the nurses in the United Kingdom, and thus to exercise all the functions and powers entrusted, so far as the medical profession is concerned, to all the Colleges of Medicine and Surgery in England, Scotland and Ireland, to the General Medical Council, and the British Medical Association, together with the meddlesome interference and patronage of rich and leisured women through the distribution of so-called Benevolence—supported by dramatic displays and Society functions.

The College Constitution was drafted by autocrats (well known to us all) for *dependents*, and every professional nurse will resist it or suffer extinction.

That the most thoughtful and independent sections of the nursing world realise this danger and are in arms against it is a very healthy sign. The Nurses' Party stands for self-government, power of self-support, and economic independence in the body politic.

We have ~~not~~ to quote one Clause of the Constitution of the Monopoly Scheme to prove, as the "honed pen" of "Uncle Pum" puts it, "the humbug and hollowness" of the claim of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to act in an educational capacity so far as the Nursing Profession is concerned.

### "HUMBUG AND HOLLOWNESS."

In the Agreement as defined in the Memorandum of the College, nurses who sign the Application Form for Registration, and pay a guinea, are compelled to be members of the College, and be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. They therefore agree to clause 3 (E), which states "That no titles or Diplomas shall be granted."

Who ever heard of a College of any educational value taking power not to grant titles and diplomas to those who attain by examination the educational standards prescribed!

Our Colleges of Nursing will grant both.

### WOMEN AND THE VICTORIA CROSS.

Answering Mr. Yeo in the House of Commons on Monday, Mr. Macpherson said: "When a case arises in which a woman performs an action in the circumstances contemplated by the Victoria Cross Warrant consideration will be given to an extension of the conditions. At present the warrant would not, I think, admit of a grant."

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