

These were politely refused.

*Patroness*: "I shall have you moved on by the police."

*Nurse*: "The police would have moved us on if we had not a right to stand here and do what we are doing," was the reply.

*Patroness*: "I don't care a damn what you do!"

Here another "lady" tried to snatch the bundle of leaflets out of the nurse's hand.

Another member of the Nurses' Committee then came to the rescue, and asked what was the matter.

*Nurse*: "This lady objects to our distributing the leaflets, but says she does not care a damn what we do."

*Patroness*: "Oh! I apologise. I ought not to have said that."

*Second Nurse*: "Perhaps, Madam, you do not know the reason why we are here. It is owing to the boycott of the press, which will not insert the opinions of Trained Nurses on their own affairs."

*Patroness*: "You deserve it."

A flow of eloquence here ensued upon the part of the would-be patroness on the merits of the College of Nursing, Limited.

*Second Nurse* then gave good reasons why she objected to the autocratic constitution of the College, and asked whether the funds being collected from the public were for the "Nation's Nurses" or only for members of the College of Nursing, Limited?

To this no very definite reply was forthcoming, but *Patroness* assumed that nurses to benefit would have to be on the College register.

*Second Nurse*: "We do not acknowledge Mr. Stanley's College register—the only register we shall recognize is the State Register by Act of Parliament. We have drafted our own Bill."

*Patroness*: "Why then has your Bill not been passed?"

*Second Nurse*: "Vested interests have obstructed it; it has been persistently blocked, although it was passed by the House of Lords, and read a first time by a huge majority, under the ten minutes' rule, in the House of Commons."

*Patroness*, calming down: "I really want information. If only some of you ladies could meet some of ours to talk things over."

*Second Nurse* then gave an address from which reliable information on nursing affairs could be obtained.

A very elegant person of unmistakable stage deportment then billowed up and detached *Patroness*. "Come away," she said con-

temptuously, "they are not worth arguing with."

The two "charitable" dames then disappeared within the Hall, and the thankless ones continued to do good business.

We leave it to self-respecting members of the Nursing Profession to appreciate the spirit of disdainful arrogance by which these patrons of the Nation's Nurses are inspired.

May our nurses never have to submit to the humiliation of owing them a crust.

"STATE REGISTRATIONIST."

### "A PROTEST AGAINST AUTOCRACY."

Advocates of the College of Nursing have been addressing meetings recently at Liverpool, Manchester, Leicester and Birmingham. No speaker in opposition to its autocratic policy is ever permitted to address meetings of nurses carefully organized by the Council Matrons—thus an entirely one-sided policy is presented to the nurses.

Liverpool, apparently, was not prepared to swallow all the specious nonsense usually advanced at these packed meetings, and we are glad to note that Dr. Charles W. Hayward of Liverpool has an admirable letter in the *Liverpool Courier*, "A Protest against Autocracy." He reviews the whole question in an intelligent and progressive spirit, and advocates State Registration of Nurses under a reorganized National Health Department.

Of the National Fund for Nurses he writes:—"In regard to the announcement as to the National Fund for Nurses. This 'National' fund could not in either justice or equity be placed entirely under the control of the 'College of Nursing.' It is being subscribed as a tribute from the nation to the whole nursing profession, and as a thank-offering to all of them for services and sacrifices made by the great number of their body who have worked nobly for all sufferers in the present reign of suffering. It cannot be restricted to the '7,000,' or 17,000, or any other number of nurses who may subscribe to and have their names upon the books of the College of Nursing."

This is quite true. The name of the College of Nursing has been carefully excluded from the public appeal made by the British Women's Hospital Committee, it has therefore no right to money which may have been subscribed in some instances by those who strongly disapprove of the constitution of the College Company.

We have to thank the *New Statesman* for inserting, on December 1st, an excellent letter from Miss E. L. C. Eden, on the economic condition of the Nursing Profession as affected by the College of Nursing, Ltd. The *Spectator*, the *Guardian*, and the *Yorkshire Post*, the most influential paper in the Provinces, have also done us the same good service, for which we are

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