

our judgment modify the document as agreed between us in any substantial sense." "Well," said Mr. Paterson, "that is the opinion of the College! We, as one of the parties concerned, are entitled to our own opinion, and we consider that the Supplemental Charter is modified in a substantial and most important sense."

He then stated in detail the alterations made by the Privy Council, which have already been printed *in extenso* in this JOURNAL, including (1) the alteration in par. (b.) of the words "the promotion of a uniform curriculum and standard of qualification" to "the promotion of *equivalent curricula and standards of qualification for all classes of nurses.*"

"You will remember," said Mr. Paterson, "that at its outset the College was founded with the evident object of recognizing the V.A.D.'s. It was only when this idea was given up that the R.B.N.A. agreed to negotiate with a view to amalgamation. It is curious that this paragraph re-introduces one of the features to which your Council took great exception."

"In this connection it is interesting to note the opposite views expressed by the Chairman, and by the Secretary of the College of Nursing. Sir Arthur Stanley is reported to have said, 'now is the time when the large body of semi-trained nurses, V.A.D.'s and others should be in a position to continue their nursing training on beneficial terms, and our endeavour will be to organize the acceptance of the V.A.D.'s by the College of Nursing.'"

"Speaking recently at Liverpool, Miss Rundle said, 'It is necessary to organize now, because of the conditions through which the country is passing. V.A.D.'s have no position at all in connection with the College. These nurses must take their training the same as other nurses have done.'

"Which of these two official statements is correct?"

THE USE OF "OFFICIAL."

Mr. Paterson then emphasised the importance of the deletion of the word "official" in paragraph (d) in relation to the Register, and quoted a manifesto from the nurses on the Council, which stated: "We are inclined to insist on the inclusion of the word because with it would go any real increase of powers in the new Charter beyond those already held in the old."

"How anyone can maintain," said Mr. Paterson, "that a Register, and an Official Register, are identical I cannot imagine. The Privy Council evidently do not think so, and the Local Government Board do not think so, for it was at their instigation that the word 'Official' was struck out."

"The attitude of the College puts them in an awkward dilemma, for, if the omission of the word 'Official' is not a substantial alteration, why did the Privy Council insist on its deletion? . . . It is not flattering to the intelligence of the Privy Council."

A DEFINITE PLEDGE.

"There is another reason why we could not see our way to the omission of the word 'Official.' The College issued a Circular giving reasons why nurses should join the College."

"In this Circular it was stated:—

"Every Certificated Trained Nurse should apply at once for Registration by the College of Nursing: (1) Because the Council of the College of Nursing has drafted a Nurses' Registration Bill, which provides that the Register already formed by the College of Nursing, shall be the first Register under the Act. If, therefore, you are on the College Register you will automatically and without further fee, be placed upon the State Register when the Nurses' Registration Bill is passed."

"No governing words are introduced into the paragraph, implying any doubt as to the Bill to which it refers being passed in the form in which it was drafted."

"Further, the paragraph contains a distinct assurance that when such Bill became law those whose names are on the College Register will automatically be placed on the State Register without any further payment in point of fee. This is an assurance of a definitely conclusive character."

"A Member of the College Council stated that nurses must be fools if they thought that the College could give this promise, and so forestall Parliament. Well, I am content to take my place among the 'foolish nurses.' I read this as a definite pledge, and believed that the College felt so sure of their ground that they could make the promise. It is an easy thing to make a promise and then, when the fulfilment of the promise is claimed to say, 'Oh! you ought not to have been such a fool as to imagine we could give such a promise.'

"I must confess I have a preference for plain, unmistakable language. I do not like these subtleties. I believe in calling a spade a spade. Numbers of nurses must have joined the College on the strength of this promise, and we felt that the alterations in the Charter made it unlikely that the pledge could be fulfilled, and therefore we felt that for our own credit, and for the credit of the College, we could not accept the Charter in its amended form."

TIME RIPE TO MOVE FORWARD.

After claiming that the Council of the R.B.N.A. had the confidence of the members, Mr. Paterson said: "We think the time is now ripe for the R.B.N.A. to move forward and play a more important part in Nursing Politics than it has done in recent years. Your Council have various suggestions to put before you with a view to enhancing the prestige and usefulness of the Association, and making the best use of our Charter in the interests of the profession, and we ask you to strengthen our hands by expressing with no uncertain voice your approval of the action of your Council."

"We believe that there is promise of a great and

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