

"DARE TO BE FREE."**PUBLICITY BY POSTER PARADE.**

"Whoever have their heads cut off ought to be allowed to ask the reason why.

"Women have their heads cut off.

"Therefore women ought to be allowed to ask the reason why."

This argument, which was expressed in the form of a syllogism by the clever Madame de Stael in the days of the first Napoleon in allusion to the beheading of women in France, without allowing them any voice in making the laws which determined the offences for which they suffered. The argument will serve very well to express the present anomalous situation in the nursing world. There are an astonishing number of persons of both sexes who desire—metaphorically—to cut off the heads of trained nurses without allowing them any opportunity to ask the reason why. But British Nurses are *determined* to ask the reason why, and *to know it too*. As ordinary methods of protest are not open to them owing to the tyrannous boycott of the Press, a party of them conceived the happy idea of offering their protest by means of sandwich boards!

From an unpretentious-looking office they emerged on the afternoon of December 17th wearing the boards back and front. They walked along Oxford Street, Bond Street, where they passed the office of the British Women's Hospital Committee, St. James Street, and into Pall Mall, in full view of the British Red Cross office and the Automobile Club, where many hospital Matrons were hastening to discuss the preferential treatment of the V.A.D.'s.

The words on the posters, which many passers-by read with apparent interest, were—in front:—

Trained Nurses protest against the appeal of the British Women's Hospital Committee for Charity in the name of the Nation's Nurses contrary to their wishes.

On the other side:—

Trained Nurses protest against the boycott of their opinions by a subsidized Press.

As they passed St. James's Palace there was a momentary halt, while a gentleman alighted from a taxi-cab, and giving a swift glance at the front board, he said with a smile: "*I am very glad to see that,*" then raising his hat, he disappeared into the grounds of the Palace. The following encouraging remarks were also made:—A Lady: "You are quite right to make your protest." Another lady: "What is it all about?" Poster Parader: "Professional women don't ask for charity, madam." A Gentleman: "I did not know that there was a protest against it," and eagerly held out his hands for the leaflet which gave a full explanation. A Matron passing into the meeting held at the Automobile Club also expressed approval. Lest it should be supposed that those who adopt this method of protest find it easy and enjoyable, we have it from those who took part in it that it is difficult and costs moral courage, but courage we must have, and plenty of it, to resist effectively the deep humiliation of this most

distasteful and obtrusive appeal. Therefore we adopt the maxim of many valiant fighters for the suffrage—we must *dare to be free*.

A NURSE WHO WILL NOT HAVE HER HEAD CUT OFF.

THE IRISH NURSING BOARD.

There was a large attendance at the Public Meeting held in the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, on the 14th inst. The President of the Royal College of Physicians was in the Chair, and the Hon. Albinia Brodrick was the principal speaker; and nurses were present from every Hospital and Nursing Institution in Dublin. Miss Brodrick spoke with her usual eloquence and charm, and clearly explained the aims and objects of the Irish Nursing Board, showing the superiority of its organization to that of the College of Nursing, Ltd. She first spoke on the broad lines of organization and co-operation, and pointed out what great opportunities were open to nurses if they would only grasp them *now*. She then urged the nurses to join the Irish Nursing Board and make a strong Register, so that they would be ready to tackle the difficulties that would inevitably arise when the war was over. Miss Brodrick mentioned that she had just addressed large bodies of Nurses quite lately in both London and Glasgow where she found a general impression of friendly envy at the fact that Irish Nurses have established their own Nursing Board, and that it promised to be a huge success, while they, of the Sister Countries had, so far, been unable to do so. Several points were cleared up by the speaker. *First*, That the Certificates of the Irish Nursing Board would be of no value outside Ireland. This erroneous idea is being spread among the nurses of different Hospitals; but Miss Brodrick told them that Certificates issued by the Irish Nursing Board would be accepted, just as the Certificates from other countries like Australia, New Zealand, America, &c., were being accepted in London now. She put the pertinent questions, "Who said they would not be accepted?" and "How do they know?" Another very damaging statement that is being made is that when State Registration comes Irish nurses will be left out unless they belong to the College of Nursing, Ltd. The Nurses having in mind what happened with the Midwives Bill in 1902, when Ireland was left out, are much afraid that the advocates of the College of Nursing, Ltd., are really stating the truth! But Miss Brodrick, Miss Roberts and the Chairman all emphatically negatived this statement, the Chairman adding that if such a measure were ever attempted we had our M.P.'s to rely on, who would see that justice was done to the Irish Nurses. Miss Brodrick pointed out their independent financial position, and that no Charity Appeal would be made to the Public on behalf of the Irish nurses.

Miss Huxley, Miss Reeves, Miss O'Flynn, Miss Roberts, Miss Carson Rae, Miss O'Donel, Miss K. Kearns, and Miss Ramsden all addressed the meeting, which then closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman.

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