

meant to maintain, were approved by a very large section of the working nurses themselves. If these principles were not tolerated by those supporting the College of Nursing, Ltd., then the management of the College required drastic reform.

It was agreed that in accepting the withdrawal of the two Leagues this point of view should be sent to the Hon. Secretaries with the request that it be placed before the next general meeting of each League, as the members of the Chelsea Infirmary Nurses' League had apparently not been consulted before its withdrawal.

The meeting then terminated.

BEATRICE CUTLER  
Hon. Secretary.

### NON COMPOS MENTIS.

Correspondence has recently taken place between the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and Miss E. L. C. Eden of the National Union of Trained Nurses, and the British Women's Hospital Committee, on the inevitable ethical and economic depreciation of trained nursing, which must result from the charitable appeal made in the public press for the "Nation's Nurses."

As self-respecting wage-earners, State Registrationists object to pauperization, but Miss May Whitty (Mrs. Ben Webster) the Chairman of the B.W.H.C. evades sending a considered reply, and merely states that her Committee "greatly regret the opposition of your Society to the scheme of the College, which they are inclined to think you misunderstand, as they feel sure that in all ways its aims are to raise the status and conditions of nurses."

The impertinence of this assumption is unique. Here is a Committee largely composed of actresses who know no more of the professional conditions and standards of trained nurses than the Dodo, calmly informing our experts, who have studied nursing and social conditions all over the world, that they have not the intelligence to form opinions concerning their own professional affairs. Whilst these ladies of the Drama "feel sure" their judgment is infallible! It would be amusing if it were not so grotesque. Gilbert and Sullivan could alone do justice to such a comedy.

In reply to several correspondents, we give the names of the "infallibles" who compose the British Women's Advisory Committee:—

*President*: Lady Forbes-Robertson.

*Chair*: Miss May Whitty (Mrs. Ben Webster).

*Joint Hon. Treasurers*: Viscountess Cowdray (formerly Mrs. Pearson) and Miss Fellowes-Robinson.

*Hon. Secretary*: Miss Nina Boucicault (we do not know what this keen suffragist is doing in this galère).

*Advisory Committee*: Winifred Countess of Arran, Miss Elizabeth Asquith, Miss Inez Bensusan, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss Compton, Mrs. Louis Duveen (of the well-known firm of antique dealers), Lady Fulton, Lady Kent, Miss Winifred Mayo, the Honble. Mrs. Henry McLaren, Miss Decima Moore, Miss Eva Moore, Lady Pearson, Miss M. Lucett Ryley, Miss Blanche Stanley, and Miss Janette Steer.

*Secretary*: Mrs. Smeaton Douglas.

It will be observed that there is not one trained nurse on this Committee, which arrogates to itself the right to claim charity upon behalf of the Nation's Nurses, and thus undermine their economic stability and social status.

For months, columns of advertisements for this appeal have appeared in the London press. Last week, however, the appeal had been redrafted, and in very small print we note "the Nation's Nurses" are defined as those belonging to the College of Nursing—of course, omitting the word "Limited," so that even now the public are not informed that they are bolstering up a "Company," which should be self-supporting. Tributes and Annuities are to be given to "individual nurses."

Miss Eden's letter is so admirable that we hope to publish it at an early date. In her reply to Miss Eden, one of our most brilliant publicists, Mrs. Ben Webster is also inclined to think that together with Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss Breay, Miss Eden is *non compos mentis*, and is not capable of understanding the "aims" of the College. That may be so, but we have no doubt as to the significance and danger of its written Constitution, which no doubt appeals to the type of woman who dares to thrust vulgar patronage on professional nurses, and does not, as one of them, so euphionously put it at the Queen's Hall, "Care a damn what you do"! Language which may pass currency in the green-room of the "Halls," but which is not usually addressed to members of the profession founded by Florence Nightingale.

### COLLEGE OF NURSING—A WAR CHARITY.

As the Nation's Fund for Nurses was appealing for public charity in the name of the Nation's Nurses without their consent, we applied to the London County Council for information as to whether the Fund was registered under the War Charities Act, and received the following reply:—

London County Council,  
County Hall, Spring Gardens, S.W. 1.

MADAM,

WAR CHARITIES ACT, 1916.

CASE No. 742.

With reference to the inquiry contained in your letter of the 8th inst., I have to inform you that the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)