

mental strength to have nursed the wounded from the battle-field, had not these great men given to the world their blessed discoveries? Now, why should not the doctors and Nurses of this country celebrate "Ether Day" with full honours, or—if we prefer it—establish a "Chloroform Day"? just to keep us in mind of these *great things*, "lest we forget." Is there any conceivable reason against it? An answer is awaited. Would it not be an excellent war memorial?

BEATRICE KENT.

### STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The following letter, which appeared in the *Sunday Times* of August 5th, is Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's reply to one in a former issue, by an anonymous correspondent signing himself "A Life-long Friend of Nurses," belittling the representative character of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, and charging it with acting illegally in breaking off negotiations with the College of Nursing, Ltd., in October last without reference to each of its constituent societies.

#### STATE ORGANISATION FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of *The Sunday Times*.

Sir,—Your correspondent who states that he is "A Lifelong Friend of Nurses" should not endeavour to hide himself under a pseudonym when attacking those persons whom he claims to befriend.

The Central Committee was formed in 1910 on the initiative of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, of eight societies of experts—doctors and nurses—including the British Medical Association, all of which had previously supported the demand for the organisation of the nursing profession by the State.

At the end of 1915 a suggestion for a voluntary system of registration was put forward by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., amongst the Nurse Training Schools in connection with a College of Nursing. Such a college was registered as a limited company in March, 1916, but as its advocates speedily became aware that State and not voluntary registration would alone be acceptable to the nursing profession, it drafted a Bill which excluded the majority of the fundamental principles for which the Central Committee has been working for several years. Conferences took place between the two bodies with the hope of agreeing upon a conjoint Bill, but as the Council of the College did not adopt amendments held by the Central Committee to be essential, that Committee decided not to continue negotiations, but to proceed with its own Bill, as it had a perfect right to do, by 20 votes to 2.

If the delegates of the two societies affiliated to the Central Committee, which had from the first accepted office on the Nursing College Council, objected to this policy, and wished to consult

their respective societies, they had ample time to do so. If the societies were not informed, it was the fault of their own delegates, not of the Central Committee, and the charge of acting illegally is absolutely without foundation.

The principles upon which the Central Committee lays so much stress are:—(1) The representation of the nurses on the provisional body set up under a Nurses' Registration Act which will make the rules to which registered nurses will have to conform; (2) an open term of grace for nurses in practice on the passing of the Act, and, afterwards (3) a central examination with no exemption for certain privileged schools, and (4) a definition of what a trained nurse is, none of which fundamental provisions for sound legislation are incorporated in the Bill drafted by the College of Nursing, Ltd.

Your correspondent and his intimate associates will have to learn that the Registration of Nurses is an economic and, therefore, a labour question, and that trained nurses do not intend to be placed under a governing body dominated by their employers without the most determined struggle, in which they will have the sympathy of labour, and, before long, the lever of the Parliamentary franchise.

ETHEL GORDON FENWICK,

Hon. Nurse Secretary, Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

### NURSING ORGANIZATION IN NEW ZEALAND.

#### REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

Dr. T. H. A. Valintine, Inspector-General of Hospitals and Chief Health Officer in New Zealand, in the report of his Department presented to the Hon. the Minister of Public Health, Hospitals, and Charitable Aid, writes:—

I would particularly draw your attention to the report by the Assistant Inspector, Miss Maclean, on the Nurses Registration and Midwives Acts, and on other matters relating to the nursing profession, of which by no means the least interesting is the portion devoted to the work of our nurses in Egypt and in other portions of the Empire.

Miss Maclean reports in part:—

#### THE NURSES REGISTRATION ACT.

I have the honour to report as follows:—

During the year two examinations were held by the State: 153 candidates sat for examination; 145 were successful in passing, and their names were placed on the register. Forty-six nurses were registered from overseas.

Since the first contingent of fifty nurses left in April, 1915, for active service with the Expeditionary Force, two more contingents of 100 each have been despatched at the request of the War Office for service in Egypt or elsewhere required. Besides these, the two hospital ships have been staffed; other nurses have been sent away on transport

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