

*Passer-by.*—"But I am much in sympathy; I think it is an excellent scheme."

*Nurse B.*—"It is obtrusive and humiliating."

*Passer-by.*—"But nurses are so badly paid."

*Nurse B.*—"Precisely; the way to help them is to see that they have a living wage. *Pay*, not *patronage*, is what they want."

*Nurse A.*—"An Australian officer who saw this objectionable advertisement said to a British nurse: 'If this were done in Australia, our nurses would have broken every window in the Parliament Buildings to draw attention to the insult; they would never stand it.'"

The lady addressed disappeared into the building. From my coign of vantage, I was able to study the faces of the approaching audience. If these ultra-smart women with painted faces and dyed hair (obvious in many of them) are to assume control of the nursing profession, I mused, the nurses do indeed need a "Nurses' Protection Committee."

Two ladies (refusing the leaflets): "Don't take them; that is the wrong side."

*Nurse B.*—"The right side, Madam, which is that we protest against being made objects of charity; let the money be spent on our suffering men and upon the starving women and children in the conquered districts."

Here a naval officer courteously listened while one of the ladies gave an explanation of the situation; he was about to enter, but thereupon turned round and went out.

"The Duchess of ——" murmured a few excited lookers-on.

An imposing lady, wearing magnificent furs and pearls, alighted from her carriage and by request faced the camera which was waiting to capture her.

There was twittering amongst the onlookers.

"Do you know who that is?" "No; who is it?" "That's Sir Arthur Stanley." "Oh! he's a great doctor, isn't he?" "Yes; I believe he is, because he has got a lot to do with nurses."

Two or three ladies (?) after reading the leaflets, rolled them up into balls and threw them at the feet of Nurse A.

A gentleman, returning, put his programme into her hand, saying, "You may have this; I am not going to that show."

The "show" was about to begin. I congratulated the ladies upon their courage and *esprit de corps* and passed on. The nursing profession deserves better treatment than this, I told myself.

### THE KING'S SPEECH.

Parliament was prorogued by Royal Commission on February 6th, and the new Session was opened by the King on February 12th.

The King's Speech dealt exclusively with the war, "which it is our duty to prosecute with all the vigour we possess."

A Duty the People will perform to the death.

## ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

### MEETING AT LIVERPOOL.

A meeting at which Dr. E. W. Hope, Medical Officer of Health for Liverpool, presided, was held in the Royal Institution, Liverpool, on Friday, February 8th, when Miss Isabel Macdonald, Secretary, and Mr. Herbert Paterson, F.R.C.S., M.C. Cantab., Medical Hon. Secretary, explained the organisation and aims of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and also dealt with the condition created in the nursing world by the public appeal for the Nation's Fund for Nurses by the British Women's Hospital Committee.

Miss Macdonald emphasised the fact that it was to the nursing profession that the first women's Charter was granted, and that this great Chartered profession was being paraded through the advertisement columns of the newspapers to-day in an appeal for charity. (Cries of "No.") Miss Macdonald reiterated her statement, supporting it by remarking that the Nation's Fund for Nurses was registered by the London County Council as a War Charity. She asked the nurses present whether they, and other efficient members of their profession, were fitting objects of charity. On behalf of the Royal Corporation of Nurses she repudiated all responsibility for this appeal, and further said that the British Women's Hospital Committee had no mandate to put it forward from any of the organised societies of nurses.

It was necessary for her to strike what some might regard as a jarring note because the Appeal was looked upon with grave concern by thousands of thinking, independent nurses. No doubt the ladies organising the Appeal were actuated by feelings of gratitude, if perhaps of rather patronising goodwill, towards nurses, but she did not wish to see her profession pauperised, and she resented the action of any body coming forward to launch such an appeal without being authorised to do so by any responsible body of nurses. Let them have justice, liberty, State protection for their profession, and a sufficient independence so to organise themselves that they received remuneration equivalent to the service they rendered, and they would inaugurate their own benevolent schemes and maintain them too.

It had been stated by the promoters that there had been a sympathetic response to the appeal. It could hardly have been otherwise, for the reason that it was this feeling, this sacred feeling, of gratitude on the part of patients of the nurses which was being exploited to finance a new Limited Liability Company. Naturally the appeal would be a success, for the public had an idea that the contributions which they could not offer to the nurses direct would, in some way, which they did not quite understand, benefit them through the Appeal Fund.

Indirectly these gifts were but the fruit of many a weary vigil on the part of members of the nursing profession, and they had a perfect right to ask the questions which hitherto had remained

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