

unanswered. Miss Macdonald then, on behalf of the premier organisation of nurses, publicly invited the British Women's Hospital Committee to state specifically (1) How much of the money collected had been spent on advertisements in the newspapers, (2) What proportion of the money collected was to be spent on buildings for the College of Nursing, Ltd., (3) Whether the money collected was to be handed over to the Council of a Limited Liability Company to administer, and whether the members of that Company alone were to benefit, or all the Nation's Nurses, (4) What were the names of the members of the nursing profession who, at a meeting, or as individuals, sanctioned this charitable appeal? These were clear questions, and she hoped they would receive clear answers. Miss Macdonald also invited the public to consider the Constitution of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and the Nurses' Registration Bill it was promoting, and then whether, in financing the College they were not placing fetters upon the nurses.

She then described the schemes for the benefit of nurses which had been founded by the Royal British Nurses' Association, including private nursing staffs, to secure to them their own earnings; the Helena Benevolent Fund; the Settlement Fund; and the granting of a diploma in nursing; also posts were found for members, and lectures arranged for their benefit. She explained that the Association was one of the Societies promoting State Registration of Nurses through the Central Committee, the manner of formation of that Committee and the Societies it comprised. She also explained the differences between the Bills promoted by the Committee and by the College of Nursing, Ltd., and the importance of the establishment of a governing authority for the nursing profession above all suspicion of bias, and gave reasons for the principles incorporated in the Central Committee's Bill, and the importance of having fundamental principles set out in black and white in any Bill.

Mr. Herbert J. Paterson, Medical Hon. Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, emphasised the point that the Association stood for one class of nurse only, namely, the only one who had been trained for three years in a general hospital in the nursing of all classes of diseases. As in the medical, so in the nursing profession, general training should form a basis for training in any special branch.

In regard to the appeal in the papers for the Nation's Fund for Nurses, the speaker said he knew how bitterly it was resented by the great body of trained nurses; the advertisements were degrading to a noble profession, and time would show that the great majority of trained nurses declined to associate themselves with this movement.

The Royal British Nurses' Association stood for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the minimum period of three years' training, a uniform curriculum, and a one portal system of admission to the register. At one time the College of Nursing, Ltd., had declared its adherence to these

principles, but subsequently they had been abandoned. He further referred to the disadvantage with which the nursing profession was hampered in having to fight against lay control over skilled professional workers.

Miss A. C. Gibson, a member of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., said she was astounded at Miss Macdonald's remarks about the Appeal; it was badly wanted. She had no idea any people could hold the views regarding it which had been expressed by the speakers. She was not in the least ashamed of the advertisements, and she did not in the least agree that the Appeal was a charity. It was simply a debt which the nation owed to the nurses, and which they were out to pay. She could not agree with Mr. Paterson that these advertisements were degrading to the profession, and spoke of the Trained Nurses Annuity Fund as if it were much on the same lines as the Nation's Fund, and referred to the foundation of universities in much the same way. In reference to Mr. Paterson's remarks about lay control Miss Gibson said that the laymen and doctors were in a minority on the College Council, and that if they made statements with which the nurses (she did not say Matrons) did not agree, they were soon told that they did not know anything about the matter.

She agreed that the Bill was a skeleton, and said there was no need for anything else, as it was perfectly plain Parliament could not consider a Bill just now, so a skeleton was all that was required. She expressed the opinion that the Central Committee's Bill was too detailed. No V.A.D.s would, she said, be admitted to the College Register. The College stood for the one portal system. She criticised the R.B.N.A., and enquired what it had done, and how much money there was in the Helena Benevolent Fund, and said that the Settlement Home had only nine old nurses in it.

Miss Alison Garland said she might tell Miss Macdonald she had written down all her questions, and was going to take them back to Lady Cowdray, who would answer them and any others Miss Macdonald chose to ask when she came to a meeting at Liverpool on the 22nd inst.

Mr. Paterson had said Lady Cowdray was a very sanguine lady. She assured Mr. Paterson that was the case. Lady Cowdray had raised £200,000 (?) for the Star and Garter, and she would raise another £200,000 for the Nation's Fund for Nurses.

Dr. MacWilliam thought the alterations in the Supplemental Charter very unimportant, and that the differences in regard to the Bill would be got over if the parties would just meet. This view was endorsed by Mr. Roberts.

Miss Eden said that some months had been spent in the endeavour to come to an agreement with the College and that concessions had been made on many points, but that it was impossible honourably to give way on vital principles, namely (1) the representation of the workers' societies on the preliminary Council for State Registration; (2) the guaranteeing of general

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