

(self government) for trained nurses for generations to come.

This "suppression" could be effected by a Government Department bringing in a Bill for the joint purpose of registering and controlling trained nurses—let us say a National Health Bill under a Ministry of Health—under which nursing education, examination, registration, and economic conditions would be prescribed.

We ask what would be the result of such legislation? Practically extinction of self-determination, growth, progress, freedom—all would be dammed at the source, and our bodies, souls, conscience and labour at the disposal of a Government Department.

That would suit the large employers of nursing labour admirably, but it would be death to our profession as a Service for Humanity. Therefore we must be very alert where we find the College of Nursing, Ltd., attempting to tamper with nursing legislation. Speaking of a State Service of Midwifery, Sir Frances Champneys is reported to have said: "Let there be State Midwives, but there must also be Free Midwives—the public need them!"

Just so. Let there be State Nurses. Indeed, we have them now—under the Admiralty, the War Office and the Local Government Board. But there must be Free Nurses because the public need them; and, also, the majority of nurses need freedom.

Which brings us back to our own Nurses' Registration Bill. It is time it was again introduced into the House of Commons, and not only introduced, but time provided by the Government for its consideration; and it is up to the State Registration Party to press forward this demand.

Any great national question is controversial. But it is the duty of Parliament to sift the reason for opposition to reforms, and to enforce just legislation both for the worker and the public. On this question of Nurses' Registration Parliament has pandered to the influence of the exploiter quite long enough. We ask you enfranchised nurses to intimate this point of view to your Member of Parliament, and to Ministers, with the untiring persistence which wears away a stone.

E. G. F.

### RED CROSS DECLINED: A DIGNIFIED REFUSAL.

A *London Gazette* announcement says: "Miss Margaret Huxley's name has, at her own request, been withdrawn from the list of ladies who have been awarded the Royal Red Cross (2nd Class); and the award of this decoration, which was published in the *London Gazette* of October 24th 1917, is therefore cancelled."

No trained nurse in the world has had a more distinguished nursing career than Miss Margaret Huxley, or is more honoured by her colleagues at home and abroad. To offer to a lady of her

eminence a Second Class Red Cross, while the First Class is liberally bestowed upon clerical workers and untrained V.A.D.s, is an insult which shows the ignorance of those who distribute these decorations. We congratulate Miss Margaret Huxley on her dignified refusal of a second-class honour in recognition of a life-time of first-class work.

Miss Huxley's work as Matron of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, in Dublin, has its fruit to-day in the hundreds of nurses who are upholding the high standards of nursing they learnt under her wise direction; and her public work for the nursing profession and for the community is held in world-wide honour.

### NOT A NATIONAL FUND.

Many trained nurses learned with regret from the morning papers last Saturday that the King had sent £100 to the "Nation's Fund for Nurses."

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick sent a letter to the press, pointing out that, if, with some honourable exceptions, it had not excluded the opinions of the Nation's nurses on their own affairs, His Majesty would have had the opportunity of realizing the strong opposition of thousands of these nurses to the constitution of this Fund.

### ANOTHER MEETING AT LIVERPOOL.

A meeting of the Liverpool Centre of the College of Nursing, Ltd., is to be held in the Town Hall, Liverpool, on Friday, 22nd inst. The Chair will be taken by the Lord Mayor (Major Utting R.A.M.C.), and the announced speakers are Sir Arthur Stanley, Viscountess Cowdray (Hon. Treasurer Nation's Fund for Nurses), Miss Cumming (Matron Royal Infirmary), and Miss Alison Garland.

Miss Worsley, of the Children's Infirmary, is the Hon. Sec. of the Liverpool Centre.

It is to be hoped that no attempt will be made to stifle free speech, as the Nation's Fund purports to be national, and as a registered War Charity, the public and the nurses have a right to the fullest information concerning it; and at the meeting held on February 8th, at the Royal Institution, Liverpool, replies to Miss Macdonald's very pertinent questions were not forthcoming.

Miss Alison Garland, however, gave a public undertaking that replies would be given by Lady Cowdray on the 22nd inst.

What we want to know is:—

1. What right has this registered War Charity to claim to be National?

Thousands of English, Scottish and Irish nurses resent this assumption for a scheme promoted by a Committee of actresses for a section of nurses.

2. What right has the British Women's Hospital Committee, composed entirely of the laity, to define who are the Nation's Nurses?

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