

COLLEGE OF NURSING, LIMITED.

PLEDGES BROKEN AT LIVERPOOL.

The meeting arranged in Liverpool to launch a centre of the College of Nursing, Ltd., was held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall on Friday, February 22nd. In the absence of the Lord Mayor the chair was taken by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Dr. Caton.

A BRUSH WITH THE POLICE.

While the meeting was assembling, a leaflet, stating clearly and concisely why professional nurses object to the College of Nursing, Ltd., and to the Nation's Fund for Nurses was put into the hands of those entering the Town Hall. Apparently this plain statement of facts was not to the liking of the College supporters, as, after a time, the constable on duty who had been benignly watching the distribution of the leaflets, approached the distributors.

Constable: "You must move on there. You can't give those papers away there."

First Distributor: "Why not? We have a perfect right to be here."

Constable: "A lady in the Hall objects."

First Distributor: "What is the name of the lady?"

Constable professes ignorance.

First Distributor: "Isn't the gutter free in Liverpool? It is in London. The Metropolitan Press is closed to the trained nurses, and they have therefore to take other means to make their views public."

Constable: "I don't know anything about that, one way or the other, but the lady in the Hall objects. You can't do it if the lady in the Hall objects."

Second Distributor: "We don't acknowledge the authority of the lady in the Hall. If the Lord Mayor objects that is a different matter, but we are not going to take any notice of an anonymous lady in the Hall."

They didn't, but continued to distribute the leaflets until within five minutes of the meeting, when they entered the Hall.

Said a Matron, "It was a disgraceful thing to give away those papers."

Said a nurse to her companion: "I'm not so sure of that. After all, it's a most important question for us, why shouldn't we know both sides?"

Why not, indeed?

THE MEETING.

At 2.30 the chair was taken by Dr. Caton, the Deputy Lord Mayor, who said that the time when Mrs. Gamp and Betsy Prig were not great exaggerations as typical of nurses was within his own experience. Think of the wonderful change. Nurses had now admirable technical training and were actuated by self-sacrificing desires. The change was a most marvellous one. He also expressed the opinion that the large body of V.A.D. nurses were perfectly magnificent.

The Honble. Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the College of Nursing, Ltd., was the first speaker.

He began by saying that there was opposition to the College, and no doubt those present had heard views expressed not entirely in harmony with those of its promoters.

Ever since the outbreak of the war those associated with nurses had realized that organization of the nursing profession was necessary. That was the beginning of the College of Nursing. The College had done its best to get an agreed Nurses Registration Bill with the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses and he thought they had practically got it when negotiations were broken off.

Then they tried to co-operate with the Royal British Nurses' Association, and amalgamation was practically agreed upon when, for reasons best known to themselves, that body withdrew. He still believed that the great body of members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, like the College of Nursing, wish for amalgamation.

In regard to State Registration of Nurses when he first came into touch with the question, knowing nothing at all about it, he was told that the Nursing Profession was divided upon it. He found this was not the case in the least. All nurses were agreed that they had got to go to Parliament to get the nursing profession recognized as other professions were recognized by the State, and in his opinion that only emphasised the need for the College of Nursing. It was not the slightest use passing an Act of Parliament unless Associations were prepared to take up the Act and work it. Women had now got the vote, but it would not be the slightest use to them unless they had associations through which they could make use of it. And when we achieved State Registration of Nurses it would not be of the smallest use unless some organization, such as the College of Nursing was in existence.

Speaking of the aims of the College, Sir Arthur said that there had been much misrepresentation. It was asserted that, through the College, the employers of nurses wished to control them. As Treasurer of St. Thomas' Hospital he was supposed to be an employer.

Sir Arthur Stanley then enumerated the aims of the College (the majority of which are carefully excluded from its drafted Bill) amongst them as No. 1, To organise the nursing profession, and as Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, the largest employer of nurses at the present time, he was in a position to know the need for organization.

CONSTITUTION OF COLLEGE.

There were, said Sir Arthur, too many wild statements being made by opponents of the College, comparatively small in number; amongst them that its Constitution was tyrannical and undemocratic. Anything more the reverse of these he could not imagine. He then explained that seven laymen—voluntary workers in the Red Cross Office—"had to" sign the Memorandum and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)