

been objected that there were so many Matrons on the Council of the College of Nursing. She had yet to learn that a Matron ceased to be a nurse. It was further objected that Matrons were employers of Labour. How could that be when they themselves were employees? (Such an objection has never been made; but Matrons are the salaried executive officers of lay hospital committees, and must obey their orders. They are not independent agents.) There was at present lack of organisation in the nursing profession. There had been a movement for State Registration for some time, but those promoting it had never come forward with a method which appealed to all sides. (Nor has the College.—Ed.)

At present nurses had no one to whom they could look for advice. The present was not the time to speak of shorter hours. As regards pay it must be remembered that when a girl got into hospital she received training for a skilled profession at very little expense to herself. Nevertheless, she hoped a time would come when nurses would have shorter hours and better pay. She also desired uniformity in nursing education, but they must remember that education could not take the place of personality. She was glad that the first centre of the College of Nursing was to be at Liverpool. Liverpool was an ambitious city, and she was an ambitious woman.

Miss Alison Garland, who made no allusion to her pledge given at a previous meeting that Lady Cowdray would, on February 22nd, answer the questions put by Miss Macdonald (Secretary R.B.N.A.) and any others she liked to ask, made no reference to this undertaking, but claimed that the whole aim of the College of Nursing was to co-ordinate nurses, and compared it to the

"Sweet little Cherub that sits up aloft
To watch o'er the life of poor Jack."

It was sometimes objected that all the money raised by the Nation's Fund for Nurses would not go to the nurses, some would go to the College, and further, that it was charity. Many of them had sons or brothers at Oxford or Cambridge, who benefit by the charity of the past, but if a man said such charity corroded his soul they would think him a fit subject for a brain specialist. Of those ladies who said they did not require this particular form of charity she inquired who offered it to them. "Nobody axed you," said this courteous philanthropist.

BROKEN PLEDGES.

The meeting was drawing to a conclusion, and there appeared to be no opportunity for the fulfilment of the pledge given to the Secretary of the Royal British Nurses Association by Miss Alison Garland at a meeting in Liverpool on February 8th, when Miss Garland informed Miss Macdonald that 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. Miss E. L. C. Eden, who was present on that

occasion, therefore handed up a paper to the chairman, mentioning the undertaking given that certain questions would be answered at the meeting, and that the Secretary of the R.B.N.A. wished to put them.

Meanwhile votes of thanks to the chairman and speakers were moved and seconded, and acknowledged by Sir Arthur Stanley, who, in replying, said that he was heartily glad that the first provincial centre of the College had been established in Liverpool that day. No motion with that intent was before the meeting, nor were the views of the nurses present invited. Presumably, as "the sweet little cherub that sits up aloft" is the arbiter of the fate of those who put themselves under the domination of the College of Nursing, Ltd., such a formality was considered unnecessary.

The Deputy Lord Mayor then said that a point had been raised as to whether some questions should be answered at that meeting, but he did not see any necessity for this.

Miss Macdonald, R.B.N.A., then said: "But I was promised that my questions should be answered; a definite pledge was given at the meeting on February 8th, and on the strength of it I have sacrificed much valuable time in coming up from London to Liverpool at the request of the nurses who desire an answer to these questions.

A VOICE: A broken pledge.

THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR: The meeting is at an end.

A VOICE: Mr. Chairman, I am sure you would wish to do justice. I wish to correct a mistake.

GENTLEMEN ON THE PLATFORM: Chair! Chair!

A VOICE: I protest against a broken pledge. It is dishonourable. It is an insult to British women. It is not fair play. I protest against a broken pledge.

It is not a happy augury for the foundation of the Liverpool centre that at its first meeting its protagonists should repudiate an undertaking publicly given, and prevent trained nurses expressing an opinion on their own professional affairs.

QUESTIONS PUT AT THE MEETING AT LIVERPOOL ON THE 8TH INST., BY THE SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

1. How much of the money collected for the Nation's Nurses has been spent on advertisements in the newspapers?

2. What proportion of the money collected for the Nation's Nurses is to be used for buildings for the College of Nursing, Ltd., and what proportion for Benevolence for Nurses?

3. Is the money collected for the Nation's Nurses to be handed over to the self-elected Council of a new Limited Liability Company to administer, and are the Members of that Company alone to benefit, or all the nation's nurses?

4. Who were the Members of the Nursing Profession who sanctioned this charitable appeal?

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