

## REMARKS

BY A TRAINED NURSE.

As I believe in personal observation I attended the meeting at Liverpool on February 22nd, reported above. I am glad I did, as otherwise it might have been difficult to realise the determination of those who took part in it to crush out and destroy the spirit of independence in the Nursing Profession, in my judgment the *real aim* of those who have formed an unholy alliance with the lay Governors of Nurse Training Schools for our subjugation. Every undesirable element making for coercion was on the platform, with the result that the audience largely composed of nurses, were simply told what Society and Autocracy intended to do. They were not consulted or invited to express an opinion, and when Miss Eden (N.U.T.N.) and Miss Macdonald (R.B.N.A.) claimed the fulfilment of the pledge that questions would be answered—given publicly on the 8th ult. by Miss Alison Garland—after hasty consultation between the chairman (Dr. Caton, Deputy Lord Mayor), Lady Cowdray and Sir Arthur Stanley, the pledge was broken and the meeting was hurriedly pronounced closed. That was proof positive even before these people have obtained *legal authority* to control the nursing profession, of the tyrannical spirit which inspires their movement, and of which we cannot too early resist with every drop of liberty-loving blood which is in us. I heard a trained nurse exclaim: "Now I know how anarchists are bred!" and another: "These people *dare* not let us speak, so we must spit out in spite of them."

## SIR ARTHUR STANLEY'S SPEECH.

The reason negotiations were broken off by the Central Committee was because Sir Arthur Stanley permitted the Council of the College to break the promise made by him as to the constitution of the Provisional Council of an agreed Bill.

The reason the amalgamation between the R.B.N.A. and the College did not take place was because the constitution agreed upon, constituting a Royal British College of Nursing, was not granted by the Privy Council, and if that proposed had been accepted by the R.B.N.A. it would have been wiped out of existence, and the Nurses' Royal Charter absorbed by the College, in a Supplemental Charter providing for unlimited lay control.

Intelligent trained nurses and doctors realised 25 years *before the war* that the Nursing Profession must be organised by the State. The College promoters opposed most bitterly the demand for State Registration till the nurses got their Bill through the House of Lords, and a huge majority for the principle in the House of Commons. For the 10 years the Nurses had their Bill blocked in the Commons, what action did Sir Arthur Stanley, M.P. take to acquaint himself with the rights of this cause? None!

The claim that a monopoly of power over the Nursing Profession must be in existence before a Bill for its registration can be administered

has no substance. The Medical and Midwives Acts provide for setting up an Independent Board to define qualifications and administer discipline. The College of Nursing, Ltd., which crushes out all expression of nursing opinion, is the most dangerous form of oligarchy through which working nurses can be governed. We claim an independent Governing Body, and for the sake of future generations of nurses must fight strenuously against the control of Social Influence and Wealth, Reactionary Politicians, the Mercantile Peerage, the Subsidised Press, Society Women, and all forms of despotism.

In the same breath Sir Arthur Stanley denied that he was an employer, and that he was supporting employers and their salaried officials, yet owned he was Treasurer of St. Thomas' Hospital, one of the most autocratic corporations in the world, employing several hundreds of nurses, and that as Chairman of the British Red Cross Society he was "the largest employer of nurses at the present time."

A Society which has placed thousands of trained nurses under the control of irresponsible untrained Commandants can hardly claim to support professional interests.

The Constitution of the College is tyrannical, and a danger to the professional and personal independence of trained nurses. To quote but one of the provisions of its Memorandum, to which every nurse binds herself to agree, but which *does not appear on the Agreement she signs!*

A nurse member agrees:—

3 (J) To the removal of her name from the Register "as the Council may in its discretion think proper," without power of appeal.

No power of appeal is provided for the registered nurse. This autocratic assumption of power places the nurse in a most defenceless position, and she practically agrees to be accused, tried, judged, and condemned, without the right to defend herself. This is a most scandalous provision, and is sufficient to condemn the whole constitution of the College of Nursing.

Sir Arthur Stanley claims that the Constitution of the College, of which the above provision is a specimen, is democratic, and that even with such arbitrary powers "the Matrons on the Council" consider it is not sufficiently drastic! We sympathise with Sir Arthur when he lets the cat out of the bag!

## MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK AND THE ENDOWMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION.

It is of course well known throughout the Nursing World at home and abroad, that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has claimed that Nursing Education should be organized and endowed through academic institutions. Sir Arthur Stanley quoting her concrete demands made a quarter of a century ago, said "he could not have put them better himself." Considering that every widely advertised proposal of the College Company was laid down in black and white by the State Registration Party, and co-ordinated by the Central Committee for State Registration eight

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