

years ago, I doubt if, unless the College had "stolen our thunder," that is adopted our programme, whilst undermining its principles, Sir Arthur could have put it so well.

But the dignified endowment of Nursing Education by generous persons, such as Mrs. Fenwick approves, is a very different thing to the cadging for "widow's mites and millionaires' cheques," bombarding "Tommie" at home and abroad for pence, and the families of wounded officers for pounds, to flooding the Press with objectionable advertisements, and plastering every vacant place in the metropolis with a hideous poster of a young woman in smudgy and insufficient garments (supposed to be a nurse), clutching the hair of a kneeling warrior who has the decency to keep his eyes averted from this questionable female! Cheques quietly given, say, by the House of Derby—and the Firm of Pearson—for £50,000—endowing a teaching centre for nurses are one thing; but for Society women and others to exploit the suffering, services, and rewards of military nurses by this hideous and blatant publicity is quite another. Moreover, the endowment of academic institutions—run in conjunction with charity schemes for nurses—together with a Bill for their professional control, spells monopoly by employers, and all those who have followed Mrs. Fenwick's creative and progressive policy are as strongly opposed as she is to any such Potsdam procedure.

VISCOUNTESS COWDRAY'S SPEECH.

Lady Cowdray, at the request of a body of actresses—not of trained nurses—told us with that unblushing self-confidence which is the especial asset of the patrons of nurses, that the British Women's Hospital Committee were not "interfering" with our affairs, but "helping." When a body of leisured ladies set out to claim the right to ask the public for money to subsidise and organise working women against their expressed wish, I call it "interference," a less euphonious and more expressive word such as impertinence or insolence might better describe their action, as no doubt they will realise in the near future. These proceedings were described by Lady Cowdray as "democratic."

A MATRON'S POINT OF VIEW.

Miss Cummins, the Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, said she had spent every day of her professional life in hospital. I could not help regretting that her sphere of professional experience had not been more varied; she might presumably have acquired a wider knowledge of the nursing question had she come into personal touch with the freer aspect of nursing affairs outside the cramped environment of institution life. Miss Cummins was in error in stating that the Matrons had been classed as "employers" on the College Council. This is not so—the objection to a huge governing body composed of Matrons is that they are not independent. In the past, at the dictation of their lay committees, they have

obediently signed anti-registration manifestoes expressing the conviction that State Registration of Nurses was *anathema maranatha* in all its aspects; they now as subserviently acclaim State Registration as the one and only salvation of the profession at large. Matrons are the salaried officials of public institutions, and unless they are prepared to resign, and sacrifice their livelihood, they have, in the majority of instances, to do as they are told—sign "anti" one day, "pro" the next. It is not safe for the rank and file of any body of workers to be controlled by those who are not in a position to express independent opinions, or to take independent action. We want a representative Governing Body, composed of those who are not subject to the coercion of their employers, and we mean to fight for that.

MISS ALISON GARLAND.

The less said about the deplorable tone of Miss Garland's speech the better. If this lady is a specimen of a Suffragist, for the first time in my life I had a sneaking sympathy for Mrs. Humphry Ward and Lord Curzon; but as a trained nurse, give me a nice, warm workhouse rather than the "charity" of this "sweet little Cherub." But as Miss Garland very truly reminded the nurses present, "Nobody axed you."

Miss Garland omitted to redeem her pledge that questions in relation to the "Nation's Fund for Nurses" should be answered at this meeting, and that disposes of any right on her part to demand high ethical standards or interfere further with our affairs!

BROKEN PLEDGES.

Is there such a thing as British fairplay? I doubt it, after my visit to Liverpool. No Nurse was permitted to speak by the autocratic patrons on the platform. "If this is done in the green tree, what will be done in the dry"? I advise trained nurses to remember that those who pay the piper call the tune.

NOT A NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

In a double column advertisement in the *Times*, appealing for charity for the "Nurses in the War" (no mention of the College of Nursing Company) it is stated that "the Benevolent Fund" will be administered in the best possible way for the benefit of the Nurses by the following Committee; Miss Gibson, late Matron, the Infirmary, Birmingham; Miss Hogg, Matron, Guy's Hospital; Miss Montgomery, Matron, Middlesex Hospital; Lady Rothschild; Miss Swift, Matron-in-Chief, British Red Cross Society; Winifred, Countess of Arran; Miss Lilian Braithwaite; Viscountess Cowdray; Mrs. Louis Duveen; and Miss Haldane. We fail to observe a strictly national element in the composition of this self-elected medley of persons.

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