

on a charitable basis through a registered War Charity—the Nation's Fund for Nurses.

These are not the times for forging autocratic gyves in the treatment of humanity; we leave that policy to the Hun. And we nurses must show our inherent British love of liberty not only in national but in professional politics. The question for Nurses to decide for themselves, in spite of arduous work, is do they or do they not want to think and act for themselves on professional affairs like responsible persons; or do they wish others to think and act for them as if they were doll babies? The choice is now before the profession, in the Bill they elect to support.

The more timorous and apathetic section of nurses, who join societies and sign agreements they never take the trouble to read, must not imagine that that section of their colleagues who are fully alive to the situation intend to be sold into bondage without the fight of their lives. That we do not.

We ask the members of the Kingston Infirmary Nurses' League to take and carefully read THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and if they approve its teaching to come out and stand firmly for government by consent. Study the inside of cover this week.

A NURSING MONOPOLY.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley addressed meetings recently at Plymouth and Exeter in support of the "Nation's Fund for Nurses" and the College of Nursing, Ltd., and said much the same thing at each. He sketched the halcyon result of the economic compound—once the nurses were safely inside! The Plymouth meeting was organized by Miss Tait McKay, Matron of the 4th Southern General Hospital, Plymouth.

Ladies of title and local big-wigs attended the meeting and took part in its discussions, but according to report no nurse ventured to express an opinion concerning her own affairs. The Mayor occupied the chair and said he had enquired into the College scheme, and that, as "it was placed on such a thoroughly democratic basis, he was convinced the movement was on thoroughly sound lines."

We wonder if Mr. Brown found time to study the Memorandum and Articles of the College? We presume not, so direct his attention to the synopsis of its autocratic constitution, to be found on our inside cover.

Sir Arthur Stanley began by stating that the College of Nursing had inherited some quarrels, but they did not intend to be a party to any of them, and the promoters of the scheme had no axes to grind.

We beg leave to express the opinion that the College has "inherited" nothing, as the State Registration Party is not yet defunct. What it has attempted to do is to "absorb" the entire result of the many years of work of the promoters of Higher Education for Nurses and the State

Registration movement, without thanks, acknowledgment, or financial support, and just when the State Registrationists were about to win their reward, to promote a schismatic scheme to hand them, bound hand and foot, to the mercy of the persons who had opposed State Registration for a quarter of a century! Moreover, the unworthy suggestion that those who had worked and *paid* for furthering the Organization of the Nursing Profession by the State had axes to grind, comes very badly from those who have so bitterly opposed reform, and are now appealing as a War Charity to the public for funds (which they are not, apparently, willing themselves to subscribe) to buy up the liberties of the Nursing Profession. No one knows better than the autocratic male hospital officials who govern the College the hopeless dependence of any class of woman worker, professional or otherwise, when her employer controls not only her training, but her skilled work, her professional status, her economic standards, and her personal discipline. And it is well that these men should realise that the pioneers are fully alive to the danger of the economic compound into which, with the help of officials under their control, it is devised to round up the unwary. Sir Arthur Stanley, as Chairman of the Joint War Committee and Treasurer of St. Thomas Hospital, is the largest employer of nursing labour in this country at the present time; and the attempt of his nominated College Council to trample upon the just demand of the workers for independent action, and to hand them over to a huge Caucus of fellow employers banded together in the Consultative Committee of the College, will be, in the future as it has been in the past, most strenuously and determinedly resisted.

Sir Arthur Stanley outlined his policy of monopoly both at Plymouth and Exeter. Miss Alison Garland and some ladies of title present expressed warm approval of the policy. They would.

The nurses present were dumb as usual.

MENTAL NURSES AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

The Asylum News, the organ of the Asylum Workers' Association, refers in the March number to the College of Nursing, Ltd., in its relation to Mental Nurses. After giving a short history of the movement up to date, it says:—"During 1917 an attempt was made by amalgamation with the Royal British Nurses' Association to obtain a joint Charter whereby the combination would obtain the dignified title of the 'Royal British College of Nursing.' This attempt has, however, fallen through, owing to differences of the parties as to the terms offered by the Privy Council. So at present it is a case of 'As you were,' but the College, Ltd., still continues to rake in guineas for its self-constituted 'registration.' As, moreover, it does not hold the field in the matter of proposed legislation, competing Registration Bills being still

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