

## FOOD FOR BABES.

"One who was present" at the Nurses' Co-operation "At Home" at 22, Langham Street on December 7th sends us the following report of Miss Rundle's statements on the College of Nursing, Ltd., with her own deductions thereon, as follows:—

Miss Rundle, the Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., spoke on its aims, and made several statements which were in the highest degree misleading. After next April, she said, the nurses were to elect their own Council; but she did not inform her audience how this election was to be organized or how the nurses were to have any real power in the matter. The fact that the College Register is not in print, with the names and addresses of the electors made public, precludes any real election taking place, and the prohibitive cost of appealing to the electorate, even if it were available, makes the whole election a foregone conclusion. Anyway, it will be interesting to note how many of the nominated Council will retire and make room for new blood.

### THE REGISTRATION OF V.A.D.S.

Miss Rundle made an ambiguous reference to the registration of V.A.D.s, a question on which working nurses feel strongly.

She said "she could assure them that, as such, V.A.D.s would not become members of the College; they would only be accepted by holding a three years' certificate from a recognized Training School." That sounded all right, but no assurance was forthcoming that the recognised training schools would not give *preferential* treatment to V.A.D.s and count in for their "three years' certificates," as part "training," the irregular experience in military hospitals.

### BRITISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL COMMITTEE.

Miss Rundle spoke of the British Women's Hospital Committee, and said, "Of course, Sir Arthur Stanley jumped at *their offer* to collect funds for the College!"

It would be interesting to know whether the British Women's Hospital Committee were *invited* by Sir Arthur Stanley to collect funds as *they* state—or whether they *offered* to pauperise the nursing profession, as Miss Rundle stated.

### LAY CONTROL FOR PROFESSIONAL NURSES.

The Secretary of this lay Company then asked the nurses present as to the advisability of having laymen on the Council, and said that "doctors and nurses were so unbusinesslike, that it was a great thing to be advised by business men!!!"

Miss Rundle then gave a very inaccurate report about the negotiations between the College and the Central Committee in their attempts to agree on a conjoint Bill. She said, "they had tried hard to get an agreed Bill, but had been advised that anything of a controversial nature would prevent a Bill passing; *their* Bill was, therefore, on a broad basis, and was a War measure. It was of course hard on those who had

worked for registration for twenty-five years. *Their* Bill had been drafted some years ago and there was too much detail and controversial matter in it."

The reason why the Central Committee refused to agree with the College Bill was that in doing so it would have *betrayed the interests of the Nursing Profession* as made possible in the invertebrate form of legislation drafted by their employers, the College Council.

1. The College Bill secures nothing of any real value to Trained Nurses.

No representation on the *nominated* Council to make the Rules they will have to obey.

No *specified term* of training in *hospital wards* before Examination.

No independent Central Examination before Registration.

Thus all the present abuses in the education of nurses might continue.

1. Government by a *nominated autocracy* instead of by an elected democracy.

2. The examination of persons not trained in hospital wards.

3. The registration of nurses trained and certificated in favoured hospitals who had not submitted themselves to an independent Central Examination.

Miss Rundle referred to the genuine State Registration Party and their well-considered Bill, which safeguards the interests of *trained* nurses, much in the tone in which the Kaiser referred to our ever-glorious "contemptible little Army" which saved England!! The College Bill, as it stands, isn't worth the paper it is printed on. It evades every professional issue, and *secures* nothing of any value to the Nursing Profession. No power of self-government; no term of training in hospital wards before Registration; no Central Examination. The College Bill is a mere wraith of legislation—giving power to the employers of nurses who are to draft its governing Bye-laws—to deprive them of personal liberty and professional prestige, as the present obnoxious Constitution of the College of Nursing, Ltd., does.

A few futile questions were addressed to Miss Rundle, as follows:—

When would State Registration become an accomplished fact?

Reply: It was difficult to say.

Would the Examination begin next April?

Reply: It was feared not; perhaps not for another year.

Why was the College being opposed?

It was difficult to say (quite simple, if the truth were told.—ED.).

What was the matter with the College?

Echo answered, "what?"

Why do not the members of the Nurses' Co-operation insist upon hearing speakers who know the State Registration question from beginning to end, and who are able to instruct them on this professional question of such vital importance to trained nurses in private practice?

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