

" Among the lessons, then, which the war has taught us, is the importance of the study of psychology and mental disorders, a study which, it will now be admitted, we have woefully discouraged as subsidiary, even in the training of a medical man, whereas they are of paramount importance, not only in medical practice, but in all the important affairs of life. Who can deny the part played by mental instability and actual mental disorder in this world-war, its revolutions, and its social upheavals? Family physicians and lawyers know how often these are at the bottom of domestic and other crises in life. The affairs of nations have not escaped them in the past, as history records. The medical history of those who are in the public eye, and who occupy the world's stage, could not fail to be a valuable and instructive document. Those whom our American cousins and Allies call 'cranks,' were never so influential and dangerous as at the present time."

A QUESTION FOR SUFFRAGISTS.

THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE NURSING PROFESSION.

Now that women have won the vote, some of the Suffrage Societies are demobilising and their organs are being discontinued. Thus the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union and the *Liberal Women's Review* are things of the past. This Union was really composed of the stalwarts, led by Mrs. Eva MacLaren, of the Liberal Women's Federation, which has always been too strong "party" to be altogether loyal to sex. A past generation will not forget the betrayal of our cause by Mr. Gladstone in the eighties, when in spite of it—a betrayal which postponed the enfranchisement of women for a quarter of a century—Mrs. Gladstone was retained in office as President of the Federation, which so far as the vote was concerned became inoperative.

In the last issue of the *Liberal Women's Review* it opens with the inspiring editorial words:—"Our Union is dead! Long live our Union! We still fight the same old battle in new fields. War still rages for Right and Freedom against Wrong and Tyranny, but our battlefield is now the world."

Then we turn a page or two of the *Review* and have a nasty shock. We find four pages devoted to "A Tribute to Lady Cowdray" and "The Nation's Fund for Nurses," in which Miss Mary Somerville proposes that in gratitude for Lady Cowdray's services as Hon. Treasurer of their Suffrage Union, the members "will let the measure of their gratitude to her be the measure of their work for the National Fund for Nurses."

We feel sure Miss Somerville does not realise that in so doing she is offering up the independence of the nursing profession on a charger! Although she sweeps away the objections of self-respecting members of the Nursing Profession to economic dependence by expressing the opinion that "the unthinking ones are ever with us"!

We now call upon women suffragists to read the following letter addressed by Miss E. L. C. Eden, of the National Union of Trained Nurses, to the British Women's Hospital Committee, who in spite of strong and justifiable objections have determinedly thrust the scheme forward, and we ask them to seriously consider if they are going to support Right and Freedom for the Nursing Profession, as against Wrong and Tyranny, or to betray all the principles for which they have claimed enfranchisement?

WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS SHOULD READ THIS LETTER.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

President: Miss M. Heather-Bigg, Charing Cross Hospital, W.C.

46, Marsham Street,
Westminster,

London, S.W. 1.

November 23rd, 1917.

To the Chairman, British Women's Hospital.

DEAR MADAM,—I shall be greatly obliged if you will lay this letter before your Committee, as it is important that they should be in full possession of the facts.

When it was first made known that the British Women's Hospital Fund had been approached by Sir Arthur Stanley with a view to raising money for the College of Nursing Ltd., a strong protest was made by representatives of organised Nurses' Societies in view of the fact that the College of Nursing was a new organisation, practically representing employers, and one which had refused recognition to working nurses.

I myself wrote to Lady Cowdray and to you offering to explain the question involved. In answer to my letter I received the following reply, dated May 3rd:—

DEAR MADAM,—My Committee had an interview with Mrs. Bedford Fenwick yesterday, when she placed before us the views of the Societies which she represents regarding our proposed Fund for Nurses.

In view of the fact that this Committee do not care to undertake work of a controversial nature, and until such time as the points under consideration have been fully analysed, we have thought it wise to postpone any work in connection with the Nurses' Fund. Thanking you for your letter,

Yours truly,

MAY WHITTY, *Chairman.*

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