

GAMBOLS v. NATIONAL SERVICE.

It is deeply to be deplored that His Majesty the King has, with the kindest intentions no doubt, given permission for a Garden Party, to be held at St. James' Palace, for the War Charity, the Nation's Fund for Nurses, as it is in no sense national, and its methods are detested by self-respecting professional nurses.

We have as a result a new outburst of costly advertisements in the daily Press in support of the Fund, which continues to boycott the opinions of those opposed to the subsidising of the lay constituted College of Nursing Company, in its attempt to control the Nursing profession.

Once again our sense of propriety is outraged by the reappearance on the hoardings of the poster of a semi-nude female, purporting to be a nurse, tenaciously clutching a wounded (and evidently abashed) young man!

Throughout, the tone of the advertisements in support of this War Charity have been tactless and offensive in the extreme, and we note amongst other advertised attractions there are to be "Gambols" at the Garden Party! Who is going to "Gambol"? Surely not the heads of our Nurse-training Schools who are thrusting this Society Charity on the profession they should be the first to protect. But that the supposed indigence of our profession is to be the excuse for this unseemly rout, is nothing short of an outrage, when we know that brave men, many of them our nearest and dearest, are dying or risking death for us in every hour.

We have in our midst an army of rich, vain and idle women, underdressed and overfed, whose life has, and presumably always will consist of self-indulgence, excitement and vapidty, women who never have done an hour's real useful work since the war began, and who clutch at any excuse to amuse themselves. If this heartless clique must "gambol" whilst the nation is in danger, we strongly object to our profession being used as an excuse for their antics, and the sooner Parliament conscripts the lot, and compels them to do some really useful work for the benefit of the country the better. Young, strong, able-bodied women should be on the land, in the shipyards, or in the factory in this hour of the nation's needs. Anyway we nurses protest against their "gambols" in our name, under a cloak of Charity.

MISS ELIZABETH ASQUITH LETS ANOTHER CAT OUT OF THE COLLEGE BAG.

As widely advertised, Miss Elizabeth Asquith and others have been selling tickets for the "Gambols" at St James' Palace at the big drapers' shops during the week, which has given nurses who object to being placed at the mercy of

the College Constitution an opportunity of expressing their views concerning lay patronage.

The Daily Mirror man also availed himself of the opportunity to seek information, to judge by the following "par" which appeared on Tuesday last:—

FUTURE OF THE V.A.D.

COLLEGE AND FULL EDUCATION SCHEME FOR NURSES AFTER THE WAR.

What is to become of the V.A.D.'s after the War?

Miss Elizabeth Asquith told *The Daily Mirror* yesterday: "A College of Nursing has been founded by the Nation's Fund for Nurses as a thankoffering for what the nurses have done.

"Undoubtedly," Miss Asquith added, "vast numbers of V.A.D.'s will want to continue nursing, but they must be adequately trained, and the college has a full education scheme, with scholarships, so that they can finish their course.

"In peace days, when wounds and shell shocks are no more, they must know the women's side of nursing as well as the men's."

Trained nurses will do well to consider their future if they hope to make a living in competition with "vast numbers" of V.A.D.'s, who are being projected into the profession through the Nation's Fund for Nurses

A PROTEST.

Under the heading of "A Protest," a communication from Miss Alicia Lloyd Still, Matron of St. Thomas' Hospital, London, and Miss Amy Hughes late General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses appeared in the June number of the *American Journal of Nursing*. These ladies write: "Our attention has been drawn to an article, headed 'English Nursing Politics,' published in the *American Journal of Nursing* for February. As this article is evidently written under a misapprehension of the situation, and as it is based upon a biased account given in *THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* of the present condition of the Nursing World in England, may we be allowed to give a short account of the existing state of affairs in the nursing world?"

"The article in question (written by Miss Dock) says that an 'odious element which has been the affliction of British nurses for thirty years, is still busy trying to enslave them in a web wherein the College of Nursing, State registration, and public alms are woven with the intent to keep them professionally helpless."

"The Protest" of the two signatories is full, no doubt unintentionally, of inaccuracies which can be quite easily refuted from the printed matter so lavishly issued by the College of Nursing, Ltd., which it is designed to support.

The confusion of mind of the College Matron advocates concerning their own Constitution is amazing. Apparently they have never studied it, or are incapable of discriminating concerning the "odious" provisions of its Memorandum and

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