

Nothing has shocked the feelings of the nursing profession more profoundly—outside the coterie of the College of Nursing, Ltd.—than the manner in which every type of heartless bounder has been permitted to advertise themselves and make merry in support of "the poor nurses." Poor, indeed, are those who submit to such exploitation without protest.

It is reported that we are to be held up in *forma pauperis* for a whole week in London by the organisers of the "Nation's Fund for Nurses."

What we shall demand to know is: Are all the profits of the proposed schemes to be handed over intact, or are there any percentages for organisers and side shows?

WOMEN AND MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

The women's amendments to the Ministry of Health Bill, as approved by Lady Rhondda's Committee, were tabled on the 28th ult.

They provide that one of the consultative councils to be set up shall be called the Women's General Consultative Council, and shall consist entirely of women. This council will have direct access to the Minister, and would, it is believed, secure representation for all health services which are largely run by women. A second amendment deals with appointments under the Ministry, and provides that in the making of such appointments no discrimination should be drawn because of sex, and that a fair proportion of the higher appointments shall be divided between the sexes. A further amendment provides that one of the chief secretaries shall be a woman.

These amendments are supported by a large number of prominent women, and by numerous women's societies, including the Federation of Medical Women, the National Council of Trained Nurses, the Women Pharmacists' Society, the Association of Head Mistresses, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and the Federation of University Women.

COMING EVENTS.

March 8th.—Royal British Nurses' Association Conference on "The Place of the Trained Nurse in Public Health Work," 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. H.R.H. Princess Christian, the President, in the chair. 3 p.m.

March 11th.—Ministry of Health Watching Committee. Public Meeting on the Representation of Women in the Ministry of Health, Central Hall, Westminster. Chairman, The Viscountess Rhondda. 7.30 p.m.

March 13th.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Inauguration of Nurses' Club, Mansion House. The Lord Mayor will preside. Supporters: The Marchioness of Ailsa, the Viscountess Rhondda, Mrs. Lloyd George, Lord Morris, Major the Hon. Waldorf Astor, M.P., and Admiral Sims.

March 13th, 14th, and 15th.—Royal Sanitary Institute.—Conference on "Post War Developments relating to Public Health." Opened by the Most Hon. the Marquess of Salisbury, K.G., G.C.V.O., 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W. 1. 10.30 a.m.

March 17th.—Irish Nurses' Association. Social Meeting. Dancing. Prizes for best Fancy Dress. 7.30 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

THE DUTY OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL COMMITTEE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Of course, I did not expect any generosity in your notice of Miss Lückes' death or of her life's work. That would be contrary to the whole spirit of your paper. But I cannot allow your remark to pass without answer—a remark of peculiarly spiteful significance—that "it was no doubt due to Miss Lückes' foreign psychology that her autocratic methods did not find favour with her British subordinates."

Apart from the fact that you have no appreciation of the feeling of her subordinates for that beloved woman, it is utterly untrue and peculiarly mean to suggest that she was a foreigner or that 'her methods were foreign. I do not know what 'foreign psychology' may mean.

Miss Lückes was the daughter of Mr. Henry Richards Lückes and Charlotte Mortimer Lückes, of Riverdale, Newnham, Gloucestershire, where her family had been long resident. Her school life was in England, her training was in England, and she had never been abroad in her life. I often asked her where her name came from; she told me that she believed, but did not know, that some forebear of hers was Swedish.

I should have hoped—I ought to have known better—that death and the sorrow we at the London are bearing might have saved us from this gratuitous insult to her whom we mourn.

Yours faithfully,
KNUTSFORD,

Chairman.

London Hospital,
Whitechapel, E.,
February 27th, 1919.

[The bitter antagonism of Lord Knutsford (the Chairman of the London Hospital), to the policy of this paper—which stands for personal freedom and economic justice for the rank and file of the profession—is so well-known, that his letter will be read with no surprise; and we do not intend to enter into a controversy with him on the psychology and professional policy of the late Matron of the London Hospital. Let her ashes rest in peace.

Suffice it to say that we knew Miss Lückes personally, and also her family history long before Lord Knutsford became her coadjutor. Owing to circumstances for which she was not responsible, there is no need to refer to her antecedents.

Our demand for just conditions of service and training for the whole nursing profession is, and will continue to be, with the living. As Chairman

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