

a blank cheque, to be filled in by its Council in any way it chooses, once the Bill has become law.

Nurses prefer to take no risks!

#### FUNDS.

Clause 2.—It is stated "the College possesses over £40,000, which the College Bill places at the disposal of the General Nursing Council to be used for the benefit of the Registered Nurses."

This statement is not the whole truth.

The College Bill incorporates by Act of Parliament the College of Nursing without the word "Limited," so that by placing the £40,000 (presumably part of the money subscribed by the charitable to the Nation's Fund for Nurses) at the disposal of the General Nursing Council set up in its Bill, it continues to control it!

#### PLEDGING PARLIAMENT.

Clause 3.—The College states "that it has achieved in three years a result, which the promoters of the Central Committee's Bill have failed to achieve during a long period of their activity both before and since the formation of that body in 1910. Even now it is impossible to obtain trustworthy information as to the actual number of Trained Nurses who belong to the much-quoted "Organised Nurses Societies." Many nurses certainly belong to three of them, and totals are thus inflated."

It would indeed be surprising considering its methods, if the College of Nursing, Ltd., had not induced trained nurses to become members. Firstly we have before us the printed Pledge made by the College as the first reason why "Every Certificated Trained Nurse should apply at once for Registration by the College of Nursing."

1. Because the Council of the College of Nursing has drafted a "Nurses' Registration Bill" which provides that the Register already formed by the College of Nursing shall be the first Register under the Act. If, therefore, you are on the College Register you will, automatically and without further fee, be placed upon the State Register when the "Nurses' Registration Bill" is passed.

In our opinion that is a most unjustifiable statement to make to any nurse, but we cannot blame nurses for believing it.

Then we have the intimidating opposition for years of many Hospital Committees and their Matrons to their nurses joining the "Organized Nurses' Societies," and the coercion used in season and out of season to induce them to join the College, several Committees going so far as to pay the registration fee for their nurses, presumably out of funds subscribed by the public for the benefit of the patients! We hope, in considering this document, Members of Parliament will call for "trustworthy information" concerning both the "pledge" given in their name, and on the system of coercion which has produced the "results" which apparently afford the College of Nursing officials, who drafted the statement, such unlimited gratification!

#### SKELETON LEGISLATION.

Clause 5 states that "the College Bill is shorter." It is, but we have no taste for skeleton legislation.

The Central Committee's Bill is clothed, and, let us hope, in its right mind. Anyway, the nurses are not required to take a pig in a poke.

#### THE SCOPE OF THE BILLS.

In clause 6 the inaccurate statement is made that "The scope of the Central Committee's Bill is limited to securing for the nurse the right to call herself a registered nurse and to have her name on a State Register," whilst the College provides a wider programme for the social, professional and economic betterment of the nursing profession.

The scope of the Central Committee's Bill is restricted to the duties of a Statutory Body for Registration. It defines standards of nursing education, examination, and registration, and provides for the maintenance of reasonable discipline in the ranks of trained nurses.

It has nothing to do with social and economic conditions other than the evolution of better conditions, which are sure to result from State Organization of the Profession of Nursing.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTERS.

Clause 10.—This clause reflects upon the fact that the Central Committee's Bill restricts Supplementary Registers to those composed of male and mental nurses. The College Bill enacts that there may also be any number of Supplementary Registers of special nurses, which, if carried into effect, would depreciate the value of the General Nurses' Register, confuse the public as to what is and is not a "registered nurse," and place registered specialists in an unjust economic condition.

The Central Committee advocates reciprocity of training between general and special hospitals for the ultimate benefit of the hospitals and in justice to trained nurses. If women trained in Children's and Fever and other special hospitals are qualified for registration, why do the Government Departments which employ nurses discriminate against them and disqualify them for service and promotion? We wonder if well-educated and intelligent women will train at institutions which only fits them for a special register. We doubt it.

#### A FINANCIAL BOGEY.

Clause 11 states that "the Central Committee's Bill fails entirely to provide any financial basis adequate to sustain the expenses involved in carrying out the Act."

This is a deliberate mis-statement. The Central Committee's Bill provides for moderate yet adequate registration and examination fees, to be paid by the nurses who will benefit so greatly by the Act. It does not contemplate extravagant expenditure, as defined by the College scheme, by the erection of palatial buildings, the payment of unlimited clerical workers, and other unnecessary expenses.

Professional registration should be self-supporting, with an appeal, maybe, to the State. To be paid for is to be bought. That is the law.

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