

great reform, now that Parliament is about to entrust trained nurses with power to do so.

The College policy of government of a free profession of women by hospital officials, without their consent, and without any appeal from their autocratic control, is as dead as the Dodo, and Miss Lloyd-Still and Miss Cox-Davies appear to be strangely out of touch with public feeling on this question, as voiced again and again in the present House of Commons during the discussion of the Nurses' Registration Bill.

PETITION AGAINST A SELF GOVERNING FEE.

Another member of the College of Nursing, Ltd.—Miss L. G. Dalton, Matron of the Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, E.—has issued a Petition for nurses to sign, which is incorrect.

This Petition, which is set up in the same type as the other, is as follows:—

We, the undersigned, being trained nurses and nurses whose training will be completed during the next three years, make this Petition—that the Fee for Registration of Nurses, under the State, may not exceed the sum of £1 1s. for the first three years after the passing of the Bill, instead of as is now proposed in the present Bill before the House of Commons—

- £1 1s. for the first year,
- £2 2s. for the second year,
- £3 3s. for the third year.

We consider that the least Miss Dalton should have done, before being persuaded to send out this Petition to be signed by nurses ignorant of the amendments made to the Bill in the House of Commons, was to have assured herself that it was correct. This Miss Dalton has failed to do. As the Bill left Committee—it was agreed that all practising nurses should be permitted to register in the first year for £1 1s., and that in the second and third year the fee should be £2 2s., and not £3 3s. in the third year, as erroneously stated by Miss Dalton in her Petition.

Moreover, we would invite Miss Dalton to inform the nursing profession what she knows about financing a Registration Act. Has she taken the trouble to go into the cost of registration of nurses in the three Divisions of the Kingdom, or of carrying out an efficient scheme of State Registration? We doubt it, or she would never have taken the responsibility of inviting signatures to her incorrect Petition.

The truth is that the degrading College policy of financing the nursing profession by charitable penny doles and other reprehensible schemes, as advocated by the Nation's Fund for Nurses, means the control of its economic independence, and the intelligent and organized sections of the profession do not intend to submit to any such humiliation.

These promoters of Petitions for the subjugation of trained nurses are supporting an obsolete policy, and one to which Parliament is not likely to subscribe.

AN UNJUSTIFIABLE PLEDGE.

We are of opinion that the College Council and officials owe a sincere debt of gratitude to Lieut.-Colonel Raw for extracting them from a very dangerous and most invidious position; and that they, and the nurses they have misguided, have been most mercifully treated.

The College built up its membership by pledging Parliament to a policy which it has repudiated, its Council of hospital officials persuaded ignorant nurses to pay a guinea for membership and voluntary registration—to quote their prospectus.

“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.”

This pledge can not be kept, and had not Major Barnett and the Government consented to Colonel Raw's suggestion not to penalise the College Company, it would have been compelled to pay not only the 13,000 guineas paid to it by the nurses, but any excess charged above £1 1s. for State Registration, which might have been upwards of a second 13,000 guineas.

It cannot be too distinctly understood that Lady Cowdray and her Committee cannot divert one penny of the money subscribed by the public to the Nation's Fund for Nurses to pay State Registration Fees. The money was collected as a Sinking Fund for the College of Nursing, Ltd., or for schemes of charity, and, had she diverted it to relieve the College Company of financial obligations it had no right to incur in connection with this pledge, there is very little doubt that this most unnational of Funds would have been called upon to submit to investigation by a Public Authority.

We think Miss Dalton will be wise, as a member of the College, to gratefully acknowledge the merciful consideration accorded to it concerning the financial imbroglio in which it is at present entangled, and not to stir up further discussion on the question.

The College has been very well served by Colonel Raw, especially in this particular.

A PATRON SAINT FOR NURSES.

It is not generally known that nurses, and the sick under their charge, possess a patron saint. This is St. Camillus de Lellis, a Neapolitan soldier and priest, who, in 1584, formed a religious Order of priests, called “The Fathers of a Good Death.” The Red Cross was the distinguishing badge worn by St. Camillus and his followers; hence, he becomes in every sense the lineal spiritual ancestor of our present Red Cross Society. He was canonized in 1746 by Pope Benedict XIV. The Saint was Franciscan in his leanings, and the red cross of St. Camillus is still worn by a Franciscan Order of Nursing Sisters in the United States.

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