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EDITORIAL.

THE ATTEMPT TO WRECK THE NURSES' BILL.

IN IRELAND.

We are not surprised to learn that members of the Irish Nurses' Association, and the Irish Nursing Board, are justly indignant at the latest gross attack upon their organizations under the anonymous signature of "Ierne," published in *The Hospital* last week. The Burdett press has, for thirty years, most venomously insulted every honourable society of women nurses which has had the courage to advocate the organization of trained nursing by the State, and whilst exploiting the nursing world to its utmost through its advertising columns, has by every means in its power attempted to prevent free co-operation amongst its members.

This policy has during the past year reached dimensions of intimidation that can no longer be borne in dignified silence, and now, owing to the success of the Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Commons, the director of the chief anti-registration organ has apparently not only lost his temper but his head.

Presumably "Ierne" forgot that Sir Arthur Chance, F.R.C.S.I., the Chairman of the Irish Nursing Board, is also a past President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, and to term a Board of which he is Chairman an institution which is "bogus absolutely and utterly" is a scandalous perversion of the truth, which we are glad to know is not to pass without notice.

The Irish Nurses' Association will deal with the attack at its meeting on May 3rd, and we hope that it will not only demand an abject apology from Sir Henry Burdett, and the anonymous detractor, for this cowardly and untrue statement, but see that members of Parliament are made to understand the true

inwardness of this political dodge in the interests of the Employers' Party, who are out to wreck, if possible, because they cannot control, the Nurses' Registration Bill, which Irish Nurses helped to draft, and on the Nursing Council of which they have been accorded rightful representation.

IN ENGLAND.

In England, College Matrons are busy (1) getting up a Petition for more nominated representatives for themselves on the Governing Body of the Bill, when, as it stands, they are eligible if elected to fill every seat for nurses, and (2) continuing their pauperising policy by inviting nurses to sign a Petition against a £2 2s. registration fee in the second and third year.

IN SCOTLAND.

College members in Scotland, whilst quite willing to thrust any number of Supplementary Registers of specialists upon the profession, as proposed in the now defunct College Bill, are criticising adversely the *bona-fide* sub-section, inserted by the Government for practising nurses who may not have had three years' consecutive training and a certificate. Many London Hospital nurses, and others, come under this category.

OUR POLICY.

Our policy is to sit tight, as we have done for a quarter of a century. If the Bill goes through as amended in Committee, with a few further safeguards, it is good enough for us. The Nursing Schools and Hospitals, in their intense jealousy of State interference, threw the Nursing Profession to the tigers of disorganization for forty years. The Nursing Pioneers have fought "with beasts at Ephesus," and slain them right royally, one after another. The Nurses Registration Bill is calculated in a few years to bring order out of chaos, and it is the bounden duty of every trained nurse to do her utmost to have it become law with the least possible delay.

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