

Nurses and Matrons. But we have not the slightest objections to the latter being eliminated.

IV. COLLEGE STATEMENT.—*Secondly*.—That under the Central Committee's Bill the initial or Provisional Nursing Council, on which there is not a single directly elected Nurse, is allowed to stay in office for two years, and during this time to make all the "rules" for the training and education of Probationers, and "to regulate, supervise, and restrict within due limits the practice of registered Nurses." Surely it is enough for the Provisional Council to make rules for the admission of existing Nurses to the Register, and the present Nurses, when on the Register, should, through their elected representatives, have something to say as to the "rules" under which they are expected to live and practice; moreover, on the Provisional Nursing Council, the Central Committee gives itself, together with the Royal British Nurses' Association, eleven places, and the College four places.

OUR COMMENT.—Here we find the College condemning its own methods. Nominated by the lay chairman of the College Council, the Matrons accepted the "rules" printed in the Articles of Association before they were consulted. They then proceeded to draw up standards for registration, and administered them without any pretence of consulting the Nurses whatever. Later, they drafted half a dozen unworkable and tyrannical Bills, again without consulting the Nurses. These Bills provide for forming the electorate for the General Nursing Council of their own members, and thus depriving every Nurse who refuses to be governed by the College, of her vote for the Council. The Central Committee's Bill as it stands is so far elective that the organised Nurses' Societies *nominate their own representatives*, and these Societies may elect these nominees if they choose. There is no reason whatever why the members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., or any other Society, should not elect nominees. We hope they will do so. As to the Central Committee giving itself eleven places, that is a false statement. The seven Nurses' Societies, who promoted registration and who helped to draft the Bill, *have only one representative each*—just the same as societies which have done nothing to promote legislative nursing reform, *i.e.*, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, the Asylum Workers' Association, &c., whilst four seats have been given to the College of Nursing, Ltd., placing it on the same standing (which it little deserves) as the Royal Chartered Corporation, the R.B.N.A. The animus animating the College towards the Nurses' self-governing societies is one of the most despicable features in its career, and instead of honestly recognising that the Nursing Profession owes the present chance of legislation to the devoted work of the societies federated in the Central Committee, it is consumed with unworthy jealousy that it has not been able to absorb all the credit and reward of their work, which many of their members have bitterly opposed for years.

V. COLLEGE STATEMENT.—In actual numbers the membership of the Central Committee's

Societies probably amounts to not more than 4,000 trained nurses, and the College has already more than 13,000 members.

OUR COMMENT.—This statement is absolutely untrue, and those who have made the false statement have made it purposely. But it is easily disproved by documentary evidence.

And how has the College swelled its membership? By making a promise in black and white it cannot fulfil. By insolently pledging Parliament to a course which it has contemptuously repudiated! This is what the College guaranteed to every nurse who paid it a guinea: "If 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." The College is now making frantic efforts to smash the Nurses' Bill before Parliament and induce it to make good this outrageous pledge by substituting its Bill to incorporate the College and its Register. Rather, in our opinion, should responsible legislators omit the College from honourable recognition in any Bill. It has been most mercifully dealt with to date, but its vicious attempt to deprive trained nurses of the fruits of their ambition and labours, to prevent their Bill passing into law, is an unspeakable offence which these autocrats may live to repent.

V. COLLEGE STATEMENT.—*Thirdly*.—The Registration Fee for the first year is one guinea, and in the second year two guineas. This is an ingenious method of causing you to register at once before you have time to see how things are going. Is it just? In the opinion of the Council the fee for Registration should not at any time exceed one guinea, especially in the case of a practising nurse, whenever she may choose to register.

OUR COMMENT.—This, in plain language, is telling the Nurses that the legislators who compose Standing Committee E lent themselves to trickery in the performance of their judicial functions. It is an abominable aspersion on the honour of every member of Parliament who took part in considering and amending the Bill as a member of Committee E. How different is the truth. An efficient system of State Registration cannot be maintained on a guinea fee. But for the benefit of every practising nurse, and especially out of consideration for the misguided nurses who have been induced to register with the College of Nursing Ltd., under a promise which it cannot redeem, the fee for the first twelve months was fixed at one guinea. So that all nurses eligible for registration at the time of the passing of the Bill, whether members of the College or not, should be treated with equal consideration. Had not Major Barnett agreed to this concession, the Chairman and Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., would have been legally responsible for whatever fee in excess of one guinea had been agreed on, to every person who has registered with them in consequence of the pledge. The Chairman and Executive Officers of the College realise the untenable position in which they have placed themselves, if the Matrons

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