

do not, and instead of gratitude for the consideration shown to them, the Council of the College now dare to insult the men through whose magnanimous treatment they have not only been spared paying a huge sum of money (some £14,000), but relieved from endless litigation should their dupes elect to invoke the law.

VI. COLLEGE STATEMENT.—What the Council, therefore, wants you to, do WITHOUT DELAY is to write to any M.P. you know, or the M.P. for the place in which you reside and have or might have a vote, and to beg him earnestly NOT TO SUPPORT THE BILL, urging upon him one or more of the above reasons why he should not do so. The matter is very pressing, as the Bill comes again before the House of Commons not later than Wednesday, May 7th. You should address M.P.s at the House of Commons, London, S.W. 1. We want State Registration, and intend to have it, but it must be on right lines, and the Nursing Profession in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland must be adequately represented.

I remain yours faithfully,
(Signed) M. S. RUNDLE,
Secretary.

OUR COMMENT.—A dastardly and untruthful document which will for all time be held in abhorrence by every sincere registrationist. Under no circumstance should a salaried official be required to attach her name to so cruel an attack upon her professional colleagues.

TO STATE REGISTRATIONISTS.

As the College Nurses are directed by their Council to ask members of Parliament to vote against the third reading of the Nurses' Registration Bill—and thus try to prevent this just reform, so urgently needed for the welfare of the community and the Nursing Profession—we earnestly invite the readers of this Journal to do their duty to humanity by petitioning members of the House of Commons to support and vote for our Bill on Report Stage, and for the third reading. Write, and get your friends to write, as soon as you read this paragraph.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Viscount Goschen Treasurer of Guy's Hospital introduced the Nurses' Registration Bill, promoted by the College of Nursing, Ltd. (known as the Employers' Bill) into the House of Lords, on Thursday, May 1st, and it was read a first time, a mere matter of form.

Failing to induce the House of Commons to incorporate the College and its Register in the Nurses' Bill now before Parliament, we presume, as a last resource, it hopes to effect reactionary legislation through the House of Lords.

The Lords, however, are not only men of business, but thoroughly constitutional in the conduct of business and we shall be surprised when they learn the truth, if they attempt "to wipe the eye of the Commons." It isn't done.

MENTAL NURSES AND STATE REGISTRATION.

At the first Session of the Nursing and Midwifery Conference, held on April 28th, at Mortimer Hall, Mortimer Street, London, W., at which the attendance was very poor, Mr. J. F. Powell, the Hon. Secretary of the Asylum Workers' Association, read a paper on "Mental Nursing and State Registration," in the course of which he said: "One of the most satisfactory features of the advance which has taken place in methods of care and treatment of the insane since the latter part of the last century is the evolution of the mental nurse, whose claims to a professional status are undisputed, and who is being accorded due recognition in connection with the Central Committee's Bill for the State Registration of Nurses, now before Parliament, and provision was made for the inclusion of duly trained and certificated mental nurses in a Supplementary Register. This was particularly gratifying to the Asylum Workers' Association, which was to nominate a nurse to a seat on the first Council. The Bill further provided that two registered mental nurses were to be members of the General Nursing Council finally set up. Section 16 provided for the establishment of a Supplementary Register of Asylum Trained Nurses, to be called the Mental Nurses' Register. It was to be hoped that as a result of State Registration reciprocity in training between mental and general hospitals would be facilitated. Both the Medico-Psychological Association and the Asylum Workers' Association were strongly in favour of a concession of time in the case of duly qualified mental nurses, who wish to become trained in general nursing. This was not granted in any general hospital in England or Scotland at present. Mental hospitals varied much in the opportunities afforded to their staffs for obtaining a knowledge of sick nursing, and individual nurses also differed in their ideals. Some were ambitious and would be satisfied with nothing less than the highest posts in their profession, and for this they were prepared to abandon comparatively well-paid appointments, and to embark on the difficult career of probationer in a general hospital.

Dr. Robertson, the physician superintendent of the Edinburgh Royal Asylum, had stated that scores of his nurses had taken their hospital training. He attributed this largely to the presence of trained nurses in his wards, which had acted as a stimulus to enterprising and intelligent mental nurses. The result of this had been that many of the latter who had completed their double training in hospitals were afterwards appointed Assistant Matrons, and some of these had since been appointed Matrons of English asylums.

Mr. Powell thought that the prospect of becoming registered mental nurses, and the financial advantages which would undoubtedly follow, could not fail to act as incentives to the staffs of

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