

IMITATION, THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY.

Be a creator, not merely a creature and a consumer.—ELBERT HUBBARD.

It is a tribute to the foresight of one of the greatest pupils which the Nightingale School of St. Thomas' Hospital ever trained, that a quarter of a century after the foundation of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, with Miss Isla Stewart as its first Chairman, when eighty Matrons met on May 8th in the Governors' Hall of St. Thomas' Hospital to form an "Association of Hospital Matrons," they could find no better objects than those of the Matrons' Council, three of which they adopted in their entirety, without acknowledgment, as their own.

1. To enable members to take counsel together on matters affecting their profession.
2. To consider, and, if necessary, take action upon legislative proposals calculated to affect the interests of the nursing profession.
3. To maintain the honour, and further the interests of the nursing profession.

How about beginning with No. 3, and, by way of putting it into practice, instructing Miss Cox Davies, the Hon. Secretary of the new Association to write to Miss M. Heather-Bigg, President of the Matrons' Council, and make due acknowledgment of having adopted its carefully considered programme word for word?

Miss Lloyd Still, the President of the new Association, said it was not intended to be the rival of any body (presumably the Matrons' Council) already in existence. How could it be, when their aims are identical?

But if the Matrons who, after opposing their colleagues who were endeavouring to perform a public duty through the Matrons' Council, have suddenly realised that its objects were right, they would have been more commendable had they frankly owned their mistake, apologised, and applied for membership of the Council. However, "as imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," no doubt the Matrons' Council may go on its way rejoicing.

MODEL HOMES EXHIBITION.

Mrs. Lloyd George will open the Model Homes Exhibition, organized by the *Daily Express* and the *Sunday Express*, at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Monday, May 19th, at twelve noon, when the Right Hon. Christopher Addison, M.P. (President of the Local Government Board), will preside.

The Exhibition will be open from May 19th to June 14th.

The Association of Trained Nurses in Public Health Work has been granted representation on the Ministry of Health Watching Council.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, AND V.A.D.'S.

In the mendacious statement inspired by Miss Rundle, the Secretary of the College of Nursing Company, in her unworthy attempt to wreck the Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Commons, and in complete ignorance of Parliamentary procedure, she purposely misled trained nurses and the public in the *Evening Standard* by daring to speak of "Mrs. Fenwick's amendment to the Nurses' Registration Bill, the effect of which would be to admit on the Register V.A.D.s."

The evident object of this statement is to rouse the anger of qualified nurses and their consequent opposition to the Central Committee's Bill—an action deserving of the utmost contempt.

In connection with the subject of the registration of V.A.D.s it is interesting to report statements made by the Chairman of the Company of which Miss Rundle is Secretary.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD., AND THE V.A.D.'S.

At a Conference between the representatives of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, held at 83, Pall Mall, S.W., on March 24th, 1916, the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., M.V.O. (now Sir Arthur Stanley) in the chair, Miss Musson asked, in the course of the proceedings, "whether Mr. Stanley proposed through the College of Nursing, to lay down the education of such people as the V.A.D.'s."

Mr. Stanley said that "if the Council itself, acting on the wishes of the members of the College, chose to do that, it was exactly what he wished them to do, it would be the best possible thing."

At a meeting in the Governors' Hall, at St. Thomas's Hospital, on Friday, April 7th, 1916, at which the Hon. Arthur Stanley also presided, Mr. Bonham Carter, Secretary of the Nightingale Fund, said that "when the question of State Registration of Nurses came before the world twenty years ago, St. Thomas's Hospital took a strong line against it. They had not yet agreed to decide upon approval of the form the College was going to take. They approved of what was originally proposed in the circular Letter, and gave it their blessing, but had not since met to discuss the matter. He wanted to know a little bit more how the College proposed to deal with the ladies of whom they spoke with bated breath, who bore the mystic letters V.A.D. after their names. They would number many thousands, and the College would have to deal with them."

Mr. Stanley said he "hoped the College would have in its own hands the examination, and granting of certificates as to all classes of women's work in hospitals, including V.A.D.'s."

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