

ment, and to wreck the Bill which has received so much sympathetic support from all Parties in the House of Commons.

MISS NINA BOYLE MOVES RESOLUTION I.

Miss Nina Boyle, in moving the resolution, said in part: "I may be pardoned for some natural nervousness and diffidence in addressing this meeting of trained nurses, not from any lack of sympathy with its object, for the State Registration of Nurses, has long been one of my political planks.

As a responsible woman in connection with the Women Voters' Society, I have pledged myself to support certain societies, and the first thing we have pledged ourselves to support is the State Registration of Trained Nurses on the lines approved by the organized societies of nurses.

No profession is worthy of the name that does not want self-government. I cannot, as a journalist, for instance, imagine members of the journalists' profession permitting themselves to be controlled by gentlemen belonging to the Prudential Society. Take the names of the seven gentlemen who form the company of the College of Nursing, Ltd. Several of them are known to me personally. Sir Arthur Stanley is head of the British Red Cross Society; Mr. Harold Wilkins, head of its passport department, with whom one has most pleasant relations and obtains efficient help if one wishes for a passport in the service of the Red Cross.

But all the efficiency in the world in regard to issuing passports does not constitute the right to control the nursing profession.

It must be remembered also that the Red Cross Society dealt very largely with the untrained, and that they sweated the trained nurse very badly. (Applause.)

I was interested in a Corps which was raised for

Rumania, which included four trained nurses in the position of Sister, paid at the rate of £1 1s. a week and £8 for their equipment—*eight pounas* for women going to Rumania *via* Russia. Then there were 10 V.A.D.s and a number of men acting as orderlies. These men received 30s. a week and a full equipment of clothes. ("Shame.")

The Nursing Profession has been built up on the personal ability, devotion and endurance of its members, who have been paid at disgraceful rates. You will not raise it unless you can control and dominate it yourselves.

Lord Goschen's Bill, which has been introduced into the House of Lords, can only prejudice the Bill now before the House of Commons when it goes up to the Lords, and I object to the wastage of time. We pay the gentlemen of the House of Commons £400 a year to deal with the country's business, and they have devoted much time to consideration of the Nurses' Registration Bill. No exception was taken to this Bill on its second reading, and the present opposition is only a counter claim—an artificial and unreal opposition. What object will be served in prejudicing the Bill? Why waste the time of the House of Lords? We do not pay the House of Lords—so I have no quarrel with them on that score. It is a desperate expedient, a last expedient of laymen to control the nursing profession.

When I was young, there was a rush of young women into nursing with a sense of vocation. They laid a fine foundation for the present generation to build upon. Resolute action is now demanded. Put power and force behind it. Let Parliament know that if your Bill does not go through there will be trouble. Go right away to success by sheer *elan*. Don't let it be said that you have not put on enough pressure. You cannot be too fervent. I beg to move the resolution.



A LOYAL FRIEND TO NURSES.

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