

## DR. CROUCH SECONDS THE RESOLUTION.

Dr. Crouch, who seconded, said: Miss Boyle has put the constitutional question before you. Can anyone explain why the College of Nursing is so sensitive to criticism, that it would seem almost to imagine it is of Divine origin, and its 14,000 members called from heaven?

In regard to the College of Nursing, Ltd., Dr. Crouch remarked, "it is the first lie that counts," and showed how recruits were gained by leading nurses to suppose that if they joined the College and had their names on its Register, they would, *ipso facto*, be placed upon the State Register, when a Nurses' Registration Act was passed.

Is the Council of the College of Nursing, he asked, the proper body to be charged with the Registration of Nurses? He maintained it is not, as it is representative of the nurses' employers, and you cannot trust employers to look after the interests of their employées. I am, he said, an employer of nurses myself, and any one of them who did not examine very carefully any suggestion put forward by me in regard to their affairs would be a blithering idiot; the interests of employer and employed are so conflicting. It is like dealing with the Siamese twins. Take the chairman of the College of Nursing. Arthur is fond of nurses and wishes to help them. Stanley is a large employer of nurses, and the effect of trying to pull Arthur from Stanley results in great discomfort to Stanley.

What has the College of Nursing done for nurses in the past that they should put themselves under it? It has been in existence for three years. What have the members of its Council done to introduce reforms which it professes to advocate into the hospital where they are in authority?

Dr. Crouch here showed to the Press two striking photographs of nineteen bonny young women, taken during the first months of their training in a school of which the heads belong to the College of Nursing, and a second photograph of nine survivors at the end of their training. In only two cases was it possible to recognise the nurses. He had, he said, shown the photographs to a Lady Inspector of factories, and her comment was that such a thing would not be possible under the Factory Acts.

The College of Nursing, he said, is like Rostand's chanticleer, which, when it crowed, was under the impression that it made the sun rise. The College congratulates itself upon things which have no relation to its activities.

So long as the College of Nursing exists under its present constitution nurses will be parasites on society, dependent on flag days and victory balls. I saw the other day a publication in which I took no interest, as from the picture on the cover I thought was a pernicious, lewd, novel dealing with an improper nurse, till I found it was issued in support of the Nation's Fund for Nurses. It depicted a drunken soldier and a rollicking sailor, arm-in-arm with a hilarious nurse. The comment of an old lady standing near me to a friend was, "What a picture, my dear!"

You have to go and fight the College of Nursing.

It has succeeded in fooling a good many Labour members as well as members of the nursing profession, by professing that the nurses can elect whom they like on to its Council. There is not the slightest chance of the nurses getting representatives on to the Council of the College under present conditions, and the Council knows it. The only thing is for the nurses to form a block, and put up as the party of the rank and file.

Dr. Crouch then formally seconded the Resolution.

## FREE EXPRESSION OF OPINION.

The Chairman invited discussion and free expression of opinion.

MISS BEATRICE KENT said she was full of gratitude and joy at the feeling shown by the meeting. In the course of her life she had never heard of such a case as that of the nurses who, when they at last after thirty years' work, had obtained a hearing for their Bill, should have their own colleagues come forward and attempt to wreck it. No noble lord had ever done a more ignoble thing than Lord Goschen in bringing the College Bill into the House of Lords, while the Nurses' Bill was awaiting the Report stage in the House of Commons. It had been well said that enthusiasm marked the "height of man passing from the human to the divine." Let the nurses show enthusiasm and determination and ignoble tricks would not be played upon them.

MR. E. E. METIVIER, a member of the Committee of the Edmonton Military Hospital, counselled those present to refuse to act if Lord Goschen's Bill went through. The Bill giving them self-government was their birthright. They did not want to depend on blandishments, and they should make it quite clear that they would not have this hybrid nonsense of Viscount Goschen.

MRS. BEFORD FENWICK, in supporting the Resolution, advocated a practical policy, and said they were not there on their knees to beg the House of Lords or the House of Commons for justice. They were there to demand it as a right.

Lord Goschen, the Treasurer of Guy's Hospital, who had introduced the College Bill, was one of the largest employers of nursing labour in the city, but it was Sir Cooper Perry of Guy's who was the promoter of the scheme, and the "real villain of the piece." She advised the Nurses to attend at the House of Lords on the 27th, and prove their interest in their own Bill, which safeguarded their personal and professional liberties.

On being put to the meeting the Resolution was carried unanimously.

## THE SECOND RESOLUTION.

This meeting of Trained Nurses desires to express the most emphatic condemnation of the breach of faith with the Nursing Profession, of the College of Nursing, Ltd., in eliminating from its Bill for the State Registration of Nurses, now before the House of Lords, the Sub-Section which guaranteed that five-sixths of the representatives elected by the Registered Nurses on to the General Nursing Council should be Nurses, thus falling to SECURE a single seat to Nurses on their own Governing Body.

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