

Bill, is the most significant warning of its danger to liberty the nurses can have, and if he has half a chance he is out to wreck both Bills. He has not forgiven those who stole a march on him by 'bribing my Matrons.' It is an open secret that Royal Red Crosses, Bars, Order of the Empire honours, to say nothing of St. John of Jerusalem Stars, have been lavishly distributed to supporters of the College, whilst equally deserving people who refuse to belong to it have received no recognition. Hoist with his own patronage petard, I call it. And how about the thousands of pounds earned annually by the nurses for the London Hospital, for which they are never thanked?

Then there is 'Barts.' There the Treasurer and Matron do not permit the highly trained Sisters and Nurses to discuss openly in their own Home politics as they affect their own status. Feudal! And such a Home!—crumbling old tenements which for years have been unfit for human habitation—good enough, presumably, for the nurse drudge after twelve hours' duty! It is a wonder some have not been burnt in their beds long ago. No, Aloysius, do not delude yourself that men who support such systems have any right to make laws for women, who suffer personally from their autocratic control, ignorance, neglect, or exploitation. You must not think that intelligent nurses will submit if an enslavement Bill is passed. The effete only will be crushed by it. Fine, upstanding, spirited, healthy, intelligent girls are not offering themselves in sufficient numbers for training under existing conditions, and once you attempt to hand them over, legally bound body and soul, to the control of the type of men and women who are promoting the College Bill, you will sound the death-knell of Nursing as a Profession for educated women. Nursing will remain exploited domestic drudgery, and sooner or later the State will be compelled to step in and protect the workers. Let the State do its duty now, in spite of vested interests. The Nurses' own Bill now before the Commons is a liberal and progressive measure. I beg you to study and support it. The attempt of the College Council to wreck it and substitute its own autocratic measure is, in nursing opinion, 'infamous in a professional sense,' and I quite agree with the profession."

Host: "Wish you were in the Lords instead of me."

Little Peeress: "It would last longer, no doubt."

A. A.

STATE REGISTRATION UP TO DATE.

PRINCIPLES OF RIGHT AND JUSTICE.

Mr. Herbert Paterson, F.R.C.S., had a short and excellent reply to Sir Arthur Stanley's letter, in the *Times* on Monday. Whilst contradicting the statement that the nurses grouped in the Central Committee "were certainly under half the number of those already on the College Register," Mr. Paterson refers to the manner in which these nurses have been induced to join the College, and adds: "The promoters of the Central Committee's Bill base their case not merely on numerical strength, but on the principles of right and justice, and we maintain that, following the precedent of the General Medical Council, there should be a similar statutory body for the nursing profession, whose powers should be limited to the keeping of a State Register, the supervision of examinations, and defining the necessary curriculum. This will be quite enough for one body to accomplish."

NO AUDIT CLAUSE.

The *Certified Accountants' Journal* does not spare the College Bill, and in comparing it with the Central Committee's Bill, after a few home truths as to its slim tactics, it remarks of the "Nurses' Registration Bill, No. 2":—"A further interesting feature present in No. 1 Bill, but remarkable by its absence in No. 2, is that no audit clause is provided for in the latter. Presumably the Privy Council will do the necessary."

"Altogether this Bill has many obnoxious features, but as it has now come into the light of day, no doubt the light of day will prove wholesome."

THE GUY'S HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Nineteenth Annual General Meeting and the Eleventh Annual Dinner of the Guy's Hospital (Past and Present) Nurses' League was held in the Nurses' Home, Guy's Hospital, S.E., on Friday, May 23rd.

Between 170 and 180 members sat down to dinner, which was served in the nurses' dining hall—the tables looking very pretty with their floral decorations. After dinner, tea and coffee were served in the hall and the interval was made the occasion for friends to talk over their nursing experiences during the war—for members were present who had been working in nearly all the fighting areas.

At eight o'clock, the members adjourned to the recreation room, where the Annual General Meeting was held. The Matron, in welcoming the guests, said it gave her great pleasure to see so many members who had been working abroad. She introduced Miss Enid Newton, R.R.C. (T.F.N.S.), who had been Matron of a very large hospital in Alexandria, as Chairman of the meeting, and said she hoped she would tell them a little about army nursing abroad.

Miss Newton, who was warmly received,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)