

THE NATION'S FUND FOR NURSES.

WE CALL FOR THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS WITHOUT DELAY.

We note that Mrs. Lionel Harris, the wife of the well-known dealer in Spanish art, is the latest patroness of the Nation's Fund for Nurses, and that at a recent meeting at her house in Upper Grosvenor Street, Sir Arthur Stanley, Miss Fay Compton, and Captain Elliot, M.P., were all pleading for more money for the College of Nursing, Ltd., or for indigent nurses, and the usual sickly sentiment was advanced in support of these schemes for the inevitable pauperisation of what has a right to be a self-supporting profession for women. As a member of the medical profession, surely Captain Elliot must know that higher pay from bodies and persons who employ nurses' services, and the organization of Nursing Education by the State, are the right and dignified means of improving the status of trained nurses, and not through charity doles, which inevitably lower their status in the opinion of the public, and to ask for money to finance an Employers' Union of hospital officials to control trained nurses is totally unjustifiable, and can only result in the inevitable *revanche*. The truth is that this patronage of the worker, so dear to the heart of the plutocrat and social climber, has resulted in thousands of pounds being handed to the College of Nursing, Ltd., and is now being used, as we warned Lady Cowdray it would be, in crushing out the independence of the trained nurses' organizations and in wrecking their Registration Bill. What trained nurses have a right to see are the audited accounts of this war charity—the Nation's Fund for Nurses—and we call upon Viscountess Cowdray and her Committee to issue them to the public without delay. The public has subscribed the money for the benefit and not the injury of trained nurses, and unless these accounts are presented in detail, as they should have been long ago, some means must be found to have them disclosed. We are not going to have our independence bought and sold *in camera*.

A FALSEHOOD REFUTED.

Sir Henry Burdett, in a letter to the *Times*, attempting as usual to belittle and intimidate the pioneer State Registrationists, who have dared, in spite of his thirty years' vilification, to co-operate in self-governing societies, made the statement that "Mr. Macmaster, the Chairman of Standing Committee E, is reported to have

suggested that the Central Committee Bill should be referred back to his Committee, for the Committee had been misled, and those with whom he discussed the subject agreed with him that the Bill as it stands is not right." Sir Henry Burdett has also repeated this statement in his pseudo-professional journals, the *Hospital* and the *Nursing Mirror*.

On June 11th the following letter appeared in the *Times* from Mr. Macmaster, K.C., M.P. :—

"NURSES' REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of "The Times."

"SIR—I have just read Sir Henry Burdett's letter in your issue of the 9th inst. Any report that I suggested that the Central Committee's Bill should be referred back to the Committee, on the ground that "the Committee had been misled," lacks foundation. In view of the numerous amendments put upon the paper, there may be ground for further consideration in Committee or in the House—but that is another and a different matter.

"Yours sincerely,

"DONALD MACMASTER,

"Chairman Standing Committee E.

"Merlewood, Virginia Water, June 11th."

We now await Sir Henry Burdett's public apology for making this false and malicious statement.

Mr. Macmaster, who is member for Chertsey, has, we note, been persuaded to offer himself for election on the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., so that should the Nurses' Bill be further considered in Committee (which is entirely unnecessary considering the machine-made agitation against it, engineered by the College of Nursing Company), he would not be an impartial Chairman. We learn, however, that Mr. Macmaster left for Canada by the *Aquitania* last Saturday for a visit of some weeks' duration.

COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL.

There has been a good deal of wire-pulling about the election of candidates on to the College Council. None of the nominated candidates eligible for re-election withdrew so as to make way for any of the nurses' nominees, of whom there were 97—amongst them eight nurses and sisters, and one health visitor, all the rest being matrons, assistant matrons, superintendents, doctors or barristers.

We are informed that the undue influence of Matrons instructing their nurses whom to vote for, was again in force this year. It will be interesting to know if "free lances" and "outsiders" have been again kept off the Council; but, of course, any such election is a farce, so long as the Register is not in print.

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