

and such protection for their qualifications, must inevitably curtail, to a very great extent, the present supply of cheap nursing labour. Hence their tactics, after riding State Registration as their stalking horse for nearly four years in order to recruit for the College, of using up the time left to the Bill by "talking it out" on amendments already refused them in Standing Committee.

Space will only permit us to deal with the question before us to a limited extent, but before closing we must refer to what is, perhaps, the most serious danger of all to the private nurse, and that is the way in which the great hospitals, supported by charitable contributions, are stretching out their tentacles and endeavouring, with no small measure of success, to secure for themselves the private nursing practice. Would they dare to try such a thing where medical practice is concerned? Probably but few doctors will have time to look into the injustice of the thing and quite naturally many will respond to the appeal to support their own *alma mater* when they go out into practice. No doubt it will be argued that some of those hospitals run their staffs on co-operative lines, but this does not alter the fact that they have no right to introduce, for profit, their own interests in any way whatever into the economics of the profession. The chances are that more and more, only their own nurses will be taken on their private nursing staffs and, of those, only the younger nurses and those who have found favour in the sight of the Matron. The schools undertake to train the nurses but, as regards private nursing work, there should be a fair field and no favour. Hundreds of nurses have been driven out into private work because they could not provide for a possible rainy day, for their old age or for those more or less dependent on them, from the small salaries allowed to them in the hospitals after years of arduous training. If the greed of the institutions is going to be allowed to capture what has more or less generally been regarded as belonging to the independent nurses, those last will simply become practically no more than the wage slaves of the institutions in time.

Some private nurses are fully alive to the fact that their birthright is being taken from them, and are making unselfish efforts to try to rouse others to retrieve the position. Are they to remain as voices crying in the wilderness, or will their fellow workers come forward loyally and seriously and fearlessly and consider what can be done? It is proposed that we should hold a conference shortly on the subject, and we shall be very glad to hear from any nurses who will be willing to take part in this.

ASSOCIATION OF TRAINED NURSES IN PUBLIC HEALTH WORK.

A Conference will take place under the auspices of the above Society at the Offices of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 10, Orchard Street, Portman Square, W., on Saturday, October 11, at 3.30 p.m., when Miss Freear will read a Paper on

Nursing Schools. All nurses interested in Infant Welfare work and subjects related thereto should make a point of attending and it is hoped that they will take part in the discussion which will follow the Paper. Fully trained nurses are invited to attend the Conference, and tea will be served at 10, Orchard Street, at its close.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Whilst welcoming communications from its Members the Corporation does not hold itself responsible for individual expressions of opinion.

To the Secretary, R.B.N.A.

MY DEAR MADAM,—Would you please convey to my fellow members of the R.B.N.A. how very much I appreciated the kind good wishes sent to me from them through our Journal, and also their kind thought in sending a telegram to greet us on our return from the Church.

I am very pleased to have been elected on the General Council and Executive Committee, and will do my best to attend the Meetings and give any help in my power to further the work of our Association.

With very kindest thanks to all

Yours very sincerely,

C. M. COLLETT (*née* Cave-Browne-Cave.)

11, Cornwall Mansions,
Clarence Gate, N.W.1.

To the Secretary of the R.B.N.A.

DEAR MADAM,—I quite agree with your correspondent as to her suggestions for a coat of arms for the College, and I am not very sympathetic about their difficulty for I consider they are just being punished for a thing that happened a few years ago. Do you remember how, one morning Miss Swift telephoned to you at the office and asked you to go over and see about a new badge for the united body. You told her that our President had said that she did not wish the badge to be changed, and Miss Swift replied that Mr. Stanley did not like it. Do you remember how you put up the receiver and were so shocked and said, "And yet he said it was a pretty badge and promised the President that of course it would remain"? College Ethics again! Rumour has it that the College got a well-known lady artist to design a badge and had to return it because she put a crown on the top. So the R.B.N.A. badge has its good points after all. Like the paint brush, it has been by diverse ways to many places and it is not turned down yet. I still wear mine with pride and often wonder if I still would have sported it if the good ship of the R.B.N.A. had been having its helm guided by "College Ethics." Anyhow, if through jealousy, they wrecked the Nurses' Registration Bill we still have the Charter to help us to fight for further professional status.

Yours sincerely,

A FIGHTER FOR RIGHT.

(Signed) ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

10, Orchard St., London, W.

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