

they would wish to point out that the Council of the College, by whom it was appointed, contained nobody who was not either a Matron, Lay Official, or Medical Official of a Hospital—that is to say, an employer—there not being then a single employee among the members.

One-third of the Council of the College of Nursing resigns every year, and every member of the College has as many votes as there are candidates. Plumping is not allowed, and on account of the scattered nature of the Nurses not attached to a Hospital, and absence of any organisation among them, the rank and file are practically disfranchised, as no individual Nurse candidate can possibly be known to more than a few members of the electorate, and the better known Matrons and Officers of Hospitals are thus bound to be elected to the vacant posts.

It would seem to your Committee that the Constitution of the College should be so altered, if it is to be a democratic organisation, as to ensure the workers being in a majority in the Council which controls their interests.

STATE REGISTRATION UP TO DATE.

STATE REGISTRATIONISTS OBJECT TO PAY WRECKERS' PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES

We note that Mr. Leonard Lyle, M.P., the wrecker-in-chief of the Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Commons, is widely advertising the fact in the press (along with his picture) that to celebrate Peace he will give his first year's salary as M.P. (£400) to provide comforts for the nurses of the hospital of which he is chairman. Two points arise: (1) As chairman of Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End, it is his duty to see that the nursing staff is supplied with all comforts; and (2) this advertised gift cannot be considered any personal sacrifice upon the part of Mr. Lyle, who is a wealthy manufacturer of syrup. Persons taxed—and amongst them trained nurses—have to help find Mr. Lyle's Parliamentary salary, and those amongst them who strongly object to his insulting reference to the promoters of nursing reform, and to his wrecking campaign of their Registration Bill in the House of Commons, deeply resent being taxed to keep such men in Parliament; actually it is adding insult to injury, having to pay persons to ruin the work for the benefit of the public and their profession, to which many nurses contribute every penny they can spare.

It appears to us it would be far fairer, if M.P.s must be paid, to tax their constituencies for the purpose, as, whether right or wrong, we were informed by members of the Manchester Group associated with Mr. Lyle, that they intended to do as their constituents wished, that is, they intended to wreck the Nurses' Bill, as a vote-catching dodge. It is the irony of fate that we State Registrationists should be taxed to enable such men to ruin our work, and deprive us of

State protection because the autocratic hospital managers and their officials, in their benighted constituencies object to any degree of effective self-government for trained nurses. It is a big scandal. How about a protest to the Chancellor of the Exchequer? It is certainly only fair that those who call the tune should pay the piper. Let Stratford and Manchester find the cash for their iconoclasts.

THE ENGLISH SITUATION.

"The strength of toryism (by which word we describe a point of view) in English nursing circles, is indeed amazing," writes Lavinia Dock in the *American Journal of Nursing*. "The struggle of English nurses to gain self-government professionally, reads like a chapter of the labour movement and the contest between capitalism and organised working men.

The Council of the College of Nursing has sent a letter to its nurse members, advising them to ask members of Parliament to *vote against* the Nurses' Registration Act now awaiting third reading. More than that, the College has had offered to the Act now pending an amendment to substitute the word "person" for the word "nurse" in a context which would make it possible for nurses to be kept off the first and later general nursing councils.

The College of Nursing is resorting to all those Parliamentary tricks which were employed in New York State by the opposition to the Nurses' Registration Act in that State. And the reason is the same—a determination to keep, if possible, the entire nursing body under the thumb (or heel) of some other social element; in our case physicians and hospitals, in the English case the united and banded employers. The College is also endeavouring to push its own Bill through the House of Lords. Perhaps saddest of all evidences of disunion is the recent formation of a second association of hospital Matrons, formed by conservative women who have, until now, shunned every form of association!"

THE NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Liverpool Branch.

A very successful meeting was held in the "Coffee Pot," Renshaw Street, on Wednesday, July 16th, at 3 p.m.

In the absence of Miss Paterson, who is shortly going to Vienna with Dr. Truby King, Miss Rimmer, Hon. Organising Secretary of the N.U.T.N., read Miss Paterson's paper on "Up-to-date Pediatrics and Dr. Truby King's Hospital for Babies of the Empire."

The paper was much appreciated and an interesting discussion followed. After a very hearty vote of thanks to Miss Paterson for her paper and to Miss Rimmer for the most interesting and instructive way she had given the paper, a sociable cup of tea and chat concluded a thoroughly

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