

Harris," promptly sought an interview with the Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, and when admitted to The Presence, asked if he would give her the address of "Nurse Juliet Harris," in order that she might invite her to a good square meal, and provide her with clothing. The explosive reply, "No, I won't," "blew me through the door," is the nurse's description of the scene!

Evidently the Editor of the *Daily Telegraph* is more intimately conversant with his "Dickens" than our philanthropic colleague!

A DANGER TO THE WORKING NURSE.

MADAM,—The *Daily Telegraph* has opened a Shilling Fund especially addressed to soldiers and sailors, for the double object of assisting disabled nurses and endowing the College of Nursing, Ltd.

The appeal is accompanied by a generous tribute to the services rendered by nurses, with which we are entirely in accord. The important fact is also stated that nurses have quite recently, after many years of effort, received the due recognition of their professional status by the passing of Acts for their State Registration.

These are the very reasons, Madam, why we are compelled to ask you to publish our urgent protest against this dangerous system of begging for assistance to raise a large fund to be administered by a body closely associated with the employers of those it is intended to benefit. Not only is the public appeal for charity degrading in the eyes of self-respecting nurses and one which no other profession would tolerate, but a large fund of the kind in the hands of a body controlled mainly by matrons and employers, and not even representative of the democratic associations of working nurses, is a distinct economic danger.

The State is clearly responsible for those nurses who have suffered owing to their war work. Where help is required for aged nurses who are in need, owing to the disgraceful conditions in the past, it should be rendered unobtrusively and in such a way as not to injure the prestige of the present workers, and this can most safely be done by subscribing to the various established funds which are administered by generally representative committees. There is no doubt, however, that the only action that will really improve the conditions in the nursing profession is the granting of better salaries and greater freedom, and it is well known that a huge charity fund, especially one administered under the influence of employers, tends to lower the standard of pay and to encourage an inevitably dependent spirit amongst those for whom the doles are intended.

Just when nurses have won their Charter of Freedom by Act of Parliament, the profession is threatened with this bar to their real well-being and progress.

We earnestly trust that those who really care for the good of nurses will refrain from giving assistance in the forging of a weapon which will injure those whom they desire to assist.

ETHEL G. FENWICK,
President, Society for the State Registration
of Trained Nurses.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary, Royal British Nurses' Association.

MILDRED HEATHER BIGG, R.R.C.,
Lady of Grace, St. John of Jerusalem; President,
Matrons' Council of Great Britain and
Ireland.

M. F. RIMMER,
Hon. Organising Secretary, National Union
of Trained Nurses.

E. MAUDE MACCALLUM,
Hon. Secretary, Professional Union of Trained
Nurses.

PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

MASS MEETING IN GLASGOW.

The Mass Meeting of Nurses held in the Lecture Hall of the Scottish Nurses' Club, 205, Bath Street, Glasgow, on Saturday, February 14th, to discuss the Professional Union of Trained Nurses (already formed) for the mutual help and protection of the Trained Nurse, was very well attended, not only by nurses in Glasgow, but from cities and towns beyond, representing hospital, private, district, and public health nurses, many of the last mentioned wearing the uniform of the Glasgow Corporation. On the platform were Dr. McGregor Robertson, F.F.P.S., F.R.S. Edin. (in the Chair), Miss C. H. McAra, Hon Organiser for Scotland P.U.T.N., Miss J. B. N. Paterson, Member Provisional Committee P.U.T.N., London, and Councillor Rosslyn Mitchell.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.

The Chairman, in his opening remarks, emphasised the fact that the Professional Union of Trained Nurses had been formed in London by the nurses themselves, no outside person, or body of persons engineered the movement. It was engineered by the nurses because they thought they required some kind of professional Union for their own interests.

Similarly, the movement in Glasgow, to afford an opportunity to the nurses in that city and neighbourhood, and in Scotland as far as their voice could reach, for getting the fullest information about this professional Union, which had culminated in the excellent meeting then being held, had not been engineered by any person or persons outside. It had been the spontaneous arrangement of nurses themselves.

Dr. McGregor Robertson continued: "The nurses having arranged this asked if I would assist them by taking the chair, and I replied that I would. I was quite willing to do so if the nurses wished me, on certain conditions. These were, firstly, that I committed myself in no way to any expression of opinion on the subject—I would be here simply to take the meeting; and, secondly, that the nurses should be afforded the fullest possible information, and that they might be permitted the freest and frankest possible discussion. If there was to be a 'close' meeting, at which certain resolutions were to be admitted, and others were to be excluded, I would not take part in such an arrangement, and I am happy to see such a meeting here, in the Scottish Nurses' Club, because it was to provide nurses with a meeting place where frankly, fully, and freely they could discuss all kinds of questions—no matter on which side of nursing politics they might be—with the greatest possible freedom, that was one of the objects in the formation of the Club.

"And, further, it is of great interest to me to see so excellent a meeting, and to know that

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