

DOWN WITH DOLES.

DAILY TELEGRAPH MISLEADS ITS READERS.

The Editor of the *Daily Telegraph* continues to exclude every communication in opposition to the Shilling Doles for Nurses' Fund—thus entirely misleading the readers of his paper as to the strong feeling of indignation by which self-respecting nurses are inspired. A very gross abuse of power.

"NURSE JULIET."

Last week we demanded "Yes" or "No" from the *Daily Telegraph* to our enquiry as to the existence of the Bond Street mannequin, the V.A.D. "Nurse Juliet"—whose highly coloured story was used to conjure money from the public.

To this enquiry no answer has been forthcoming either addressed to this Journal or in the *Daily Telegraph*. We fear we must conclude there isn't "any such a person." For which mercy our sick and wounded and their friends may be thankful.

WHERE ARE THEY?

Miss May Beeman is issuing letters to country papers inviting them to support the *Daily Telegraph* Doles Fund. To cull from these wails: "We feel that were the heartrending cases of misery and want amongst some of our Nurses more widely known, there are thousands of people who would give their shillings."

It is high time all this "misery and want" was inquired into by responsible persons, and not by professional charity-appealists. We do not believe it exists. Anyway, the Government is responsible for War Nurses, and the Committees who employ the starving hordes. Let these inhuman taskmasters be brought to account.

In the meanwhile, why does Miss Beeman omit all mention of the College of Nursing Company, in support of which this money is to be used?

HAS THE STATE FAILED THE NURSES?

BY A NURSE LORD BURNHAM REFUSED TO SEE.

Recently I attended a meeting held by a certain section of the Labour Party. I have made no comprehensive study of their policy, but it did seem to me that, from such men as those who spoke on that platform, the anti-doles nurses would find an understanding and sympathy with their views that have not entered into the mind of the wealthy proprietor of the *Daily Telegraph*.

The subject of the address at the meeting was "Economics," but it was worthy of some better title, for I never listened to a finer discourse on ethics. I read last summer in the *B.J.N.* and the Burdett Press the papers on "Nursing Ethics" by two matrons, and I could not but wish that

they might have come into the clear atmosphere of this labour meeting to learn what ethics mean. The speaker was obviously a Trade Unionist of the moderate type, and had evidently very high and unselfish ideals in connection with his own particular movement. The whole of his address showed the large heartedness and breadth of view characteristic of one who has touched life in many places. In a simple and convincing way this man spoke to the conscience of us all, and those ethics of his, brought into the range of practical politics and daily life, were like a fresh wind after all the nauseating veneer of platitude and sentiment that has been used to cover up the abuses that have lurked in the administrative work connected with the nursing profession.

The address ended, the audience took full advantage of power to discuss it. I had no intention of speaking when I went into that hall but, added to the desire to express appreciation of the remarks to which I had listened, there was a reference made by one member of the audience to the position of nurses in the economic world, and in the course of some remarks I referred to the *Daily Telegraph* appeal and chanced to say, that the best type of nurse objected to this demand for shilling charity doles from the sailors and soldiers. In a moment there was a round of applause, in an instant these men had grasped the fact that a charity appeal was a poor substitute for justice, and was a menace to the economic position of the nurses. This applause was repeated when I pointed out in my next sentence that the State was responsible for nurses who had broken down owing to their work during the war.

THE DUTY OF THE STATE.

From the platform later, a gentleman stated that when he first read the appeal, he simply took it as a declaration from the *Daily Telegraph* that the State had failed in its responsibility to the nurses. It was disgraceful, said he, that our nurses should have to submit to this daily infamy in one of the leading newspapers; simply that the State might be relieved of its duty to them.

In the labour world we shall find that chivalry that will cause men to stop and consider what it means to the nurses to have this appeal promoted without proper reserve, men who will understand what a power for good or evil may lie in the hands of their employers who are to control the money rising from it. Among the members of the Labour Party we may find the support that will bring about a greater equity between the nurses and those who have run the nurse farms so advantageously for their own interests and their own social kudos, but with a mediæval indifference to the privations and sufferings of the workers. My suggestion is, madam, that we send a speaker whenever we can to Labour platforms, and perhaps the working man will get for the nurses what they have failed to get for themselves—some account of how the money, collected by the exploitation of their suffering has been spent.

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