

## THE NURSES CO-OPERATION.

The dispute between the Members of the Nurses' Co-operation, 22, Langham Street, W. (who are the incorporated lay managers and others) and their Nursing Staff, who are *not* members of the Co-operation, appears to be, from statements issued by both sides a perfectly clear issue. The dissentient members of the Nursing Staff desire to become Members of the Co-operation and to manage their own affairs; and the incorporated Managers point out that under the present Articles of Association this is impossible, and they state, which is not a fact, that these Articles cannot be altered without an Act of Parliament! They also point out that if the Co-operation is wound up, the surplus funds and assets may not be distributed amongst the nurses, but may be "handed over to some other institution having similar objects" to be selected by them, the Members, or by a Judge of the High Court.

This is quite true; and one wonders why trained nurses ever agreed to such a travesty of "co-operation"—presumably they never read the Articles of Association before signing their agreement with the "Members!"

But having built up a fine business by their good work, "the members of the Nursing Staff" naturally wish to keep it; and seven of these sitting on the Committee, have issued a reasoned reply to the ingenious, and in our opinion, misleading statement issued by the Members of the Co-operation, with which the public cannot fail to sympathise.

These "Members" have also sent out a card asking the Nurses to reply "Yes" or "No" to the question whether they wish the Co-operation to continue, and the Secretary appears, from the following letter, to have been very busy whipping up replies.

DEAR SISTER,—I am writing to tell you that I have not received the card with your reply to the question put by the Honorary Members of the Co-operation, and to remind you that the 14th of January is the last date given for its return.

The answer "Yes" means that you wish the Co-operation to continue.

The answer "No" means that you do not wish it to continue.

The fact of no answer being received by the 14th of January will, I take it, be dealt with as an answer "No."—Yours sincerely,

L. A. CROWE, Secretary.

What right has the Secretary to make any such deduction? None whatever. Such a suggestion is, in our opinion, simply made to influence unduly a Nurse's right not to take any part in the controversy, if she so chooses, and influence her to reply "Yes."

The 14th January is stated to be the last day for sending in the cards, and yet we find the Secretary in a letter dated the 15th, still urging a Sister to sign if she wishes her answer "to be in time for the scrutineers!"

We know how exceedingly difficult it is for working nurses to get a word in the London daily press, when in opposition to powerful, rich and influential persons such as govern hospitals and nursing institutions, and who hold the purse strings; but we hope the nurses on the staff of the Co-operation will appeal to the public for sympathy by every means in their power, if Sir Henry Burdett and other "Members" of the Co-operation attempt to wind up their business, and hand over their assets such as the Howard de Walden Club to "some institution having similar objects." There are always such predatory institutions on the prowl, anxious and willing to pick up such unconsidered trifles, and at the present moment the danger is imminent.

## QUEEN MARY'S HOSTELS FOR NURSES.

The following paragraph has been officially communicated to this Journal for publication:—

"The new and permanent Hostel which was opened on October 1st, 1919, at 194, Queen's Gate, is for Army Nurses and a few Queen's Nurses staying for a short time on leave. The Superintendent is Mrs. Dundas, and the Secretary, Miss Fitz-Patrick.

"The 'One Night' Hostel, at 50, Warwick Square, is for Army Nurses passing through London and requiring one night's accommodation. Hon. Superintendent, Lady Gladstone; Resident Superintendent, Miss Sikes; Assist.-Superintendent, Miss Hughes. This Hostel will be closed on March 12th, owing to the house having been sold by the owner.

"All communications should be addressed to the respective Superintendents.

"The hospitality of Queen Mary's Hostels for Nurses is entirely free, and guests are asked to kindly note that the Committee in tendering this hospitality do so on the understanding that no collections are made by the guests while under their roof for presents to members of the Staff, either past or present, who are or have been hostesses on behalf of the Committee. The Staff themselves deprecate such collections, and will immediately report to the Committee any attempt, however kindly meant, to infringe this rule, the disregard of which in the opinion of the Committee is subversive of the ideal relations between host and guest."

## COMING EVENT.

January 29th.—The Matrons' Council. Winter Meeting, 2, Portland Place, W. By kind invitation of Mrs. Walter Spencer. 3 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m.

## ACROSTIC, B.J.N.

Brave and unflinching,  
Just and convincing,  
Never dismayed.

Boundless, aspiring,  
Judicial, enquiring,  
Nurses' first aid.

Boldly advancing,  
Jealously guarding,  
New efforts made.

Best thanks bestowing,  
Join all in showing  
Noble work done.

Maud M. Tipper.

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