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EDITORIAL.

ROTTEN FINANCE,

The appeal launched on Monday last for the *Daily Telegraph* Shilling Fund for Nurses by the proprietor, Lord Burnham—in reality an appeal to bolster up the insecure financial basis upon which the College of Nursing Company is founded, and incidentally to provide charity doles for nurses who have a right to a provision from the State—outrages the feelings of every self-respecting nurse.

We imagine it is unprecedented that a limited liability Company, fearing that its income will be insufficient to pay its way, should appeal to the charitably inclined to supply the deficit. In the course of its inglorious career the question of financial stability does not appear to have engaged the attention of the College Council, or of its 16,000 members. If they cannot set their own house in order, there appears no reason why men of business acumen, or of goodwill, should do so for them.

Moreover, we consider that the Matrons on the College Council, and the heads of the Military Nursing Services, specifically mentioned in the *Daily Telegraph* appeal, have most cruelly betrayed the trust reposed in them by permitting and supporting this appeal, which cuts at the economic independence of a self-respecting profession, and which is launched in a manner which its members both detest and resent.

The Matrons should have been the first to protect the economic status of the nurses, instead of permitting attempts to depreciate it.

This disingenuous Appeal for the College Company—made to every soldier, every sailor, everyone who served his country in an auxiliary force, as in the women's uniformed services—is based on the work of nurses for wounded sailors and soldiers. Nurses considered it an

honour and a privilege to serve the men who risked, and in many instances gave, their lives for the cause of humanity, and they consider it shameful that the sense of obligation which their former patients may feel for them should be exploited to extract from these men shillings which they can ill afford, on the plea that nurses are in necessitous circumstances; and incidentally as a huge advertisement for the *Daily Telegraph*.

What would be the feelings of disabled officers if an appeal to the rank and file of the Navy and the Army were made on their behalf? The sense of indignation on the part of the nurses is exactly the same, and we cannot believe that these ladies will permit this outrage on their professional prestige without a protest to the Army Council, to which they have now the right of appeal.

It appears the irony of fate that Lord Burnham, for many years one of the most persistent blockers of Nurses' Registration in the House of Commons, should now advance the Pecksniffian plea of the privileges conferred upon the Nursing Profession by the Nursing Acts, as a reason why the public should help to organise nurses through shilling doles.

One significant fact is brought out in the article promoting the "*Daily Telegraph* Shilling Fund for our Nurses": the *Daily Telegraph* states that the College of Nursing, Ltd., has so far met its expenses "from the fees of the nurses for registration, and with the help . . . of ladies who secured the Star and Garter, Richmond." College members, who have been assured that the guineas paid by them to the College of Nursing, Ltd., will insure their being placed on the State Register "automatically, without further fee," and that they have been invested for this purpose, await a statement from the Council of the College on their position.

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