

He wanted them to bless the College and not to complain that it did not do more. Let them also remember that every time the members were circularised it cost £160 in postage.

Miss Cox Davies then proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman "for all the splendid help he gave, not only to the College, but to the Nursing profession through the College." She included Miss Haughton, late Matron of Guy's, in the vote of thanks. The Chairman, said Miss Cox-Davies "is an employer of nurses, for which we like and reverence him all the more."

Miss Musson seconded the vote of thanks; and it was carried by acclamation.

In acknowledging it, Sir Arthur Stanley reminded those present that the lack of interest shown in the election of the Council was not creditable to the members and it was not fair if the voting papers were put into the waste paper basket.

In conclusion he announced that their new Club, in Cavendish Square, which would be handed over by Lord and Lady Cowdray fully equipped, would, he hoped, be opened somewhere about next June.

#### VOTING PAPERS AS CIGARETTE LIGHTERS.

Lord Knutsford asked how nurses were to know who to vote for. Of course men like Lord Knutsford who were always advertising themselves were known, but many of the nominated candidates were not known. There was only one private nurse (connected with a large private nursing co-operation certainly) on the Council, and the private nurses could not organize to get more there. He did not wonder that the nurses lit their cigarettes with their voting papers.

The Chairman said that it was perfectly true they could not all advertise themselves as well as Lord Knutsford, but there was no earthly reason why they should not discuss who to vote for at the local centres. It was up to them to combine and prove that they could do so.

Miss Good was of opinion that this was impossible. The meeting then terminated.

#### OUR DUTY TO THE PROFESSION.

##### SOUND FINANCE AN ESSENTIAL

The College Council and its Executive Officers have keenly resented the criticism of this Journal of the Constitution it thrust without due explanation upon the ignorant proletariat of the Nursing Profession in 1916, including:—

(1) A rotten financial scheme which did not include an annual subscription from members, and left the College to be supported by charity—thus placing the Nurses in a dependent position, and encouraging parasitism amongst them.

(2) Taking power to remove a nurse's name from membership and the Register without making secure to her any power of appeal whatever, and which might have resulted in professional ruin without trial.

Having carefully studied the College Constitution, nothing would induce us to join or

support an institution founded on such a reprehensible basis, and as usual THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has remained during the four years the College has existed, the only journal for nurses which has placed the true facts of College finance and College autocracy before the nursing profession.

In this connection we heartily congratulate Miss Maude Biggar, of St. Thomas's Hospital, on adopting our amendment to the new Article 6, as proposed in our issue of October 30th, and Mrs. Jones on incorporating it in her resolution, and those nurses present on voting for it. By the insertion of the words "all members elected after November 20th, 1920," faith has been kept with the Foundation Members. Otherwise had the Article been passed in its original form as it appeared on the Agenda Paper, every present, as well as every future nurse member, would have been liable to pay an annual subscription up to twenty shillings, and the agreement of the Council with them that the original guinea paid made them members for life without a further fee would have been scrapped.

At the same time we approve of Foundation Members paying a reasonable voluntary annual subscription of 5s., as unless they do so their position is far from independent. The guinea they have already paid has been, we should hope, earmarked by the College Treasurers for "State Registration," and should be claimed for the purpose for which it was subscribed. Nurses should then carefully pay their annual dues.

#### AWAY WITH THE SERF CLAUSE.

Miss A. C. Gibson (a member of the original Council which sanctioned it) did well to propose an amendment to Article 6 Clause 9, which is widely known as "The Serf Clause," and to secure to nurse members notice of accusations to be made against them, and power to defend themselves before the Council.

That 19,000 trained nurses, termed "the cream," by their admirers, should have joined the College under this dangerous provision proves a lamentable lack of self-respect and professional responsibility throughout the profession, which is as astounding as it is deplorable. For their own safety, as well as for that of their free colleagues, who, as in the case of the Nation's Fund for Nurses, the College Council has presumed to represent, it is high time that the nurse members of the College took an active part in the management of their own affairs. They made a good beginning on November 4th, to be sustained no doubt on November 20th.

#### KNOWLEDGE OF BUSINESS.

The first step to progress is knowledge. We therefore suggest the College members, including its Council and the Secretary, should take the trouble to understand business.

No one present at the Extraordinary General Meeting on November 4th objected to the Chairman signing the Minutes of the last *Annual*

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