

By uniting our efforts we can create a public opinion that will drive the Government, instead of the Government driving us, and it will be an enlightened public opinion, wise in principles and wise in details. Two arch-enemies have long dominated our profession—Feudalism and Autocracy—and I would call to-day on all true-hearted nurses to write and work with vigour for Justice and for Freedom—always remembering that Freedom is not the right to do as we should like to do, but the right to control ourselves. Every right implies a duty.

The paper was received with prolonged applause.

AN UNPOPULAR ACT WITH NURSES.

A meeting of Delegates from various organisations of nurses will be held, on the invitation of the Ministry of Labour, to discuss points in connection with the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, at 8, Richmond Terrace, Whitehall, on Wednesday, January 5th, at 11.30 a.m. The Royal British Nurses' Association will be represented by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and its Secretary, Miss Isabel Macdonald, who will hand in the resolution passed at the conference convened by the Association on December 3rd.

"SQUANDERMANIA" DISCOURAGED.

We feel sure that members of the Nursing Profession who intend to register will note with much indignation the sneer in the *Nursing Mirror* at the decision of the General Nursing Council to adopt a flat rate of 7s. 6d. per inch for small advertisements in nursing papers, and not to pay profiteering prices.

The G.N.C. does well to keep in mind the fact that the nurses pay, and not the State, for carrying out the Nurses' Registration Acts, and they want no "squandermaniacs" to deal with their finances. Carefully administered, the very limited £1 1s. fee for registration may serve for the present—but it admits of no extravagance.

We hope also that those lay-edited journals will be more careful in future in reporting the Council's business. We note several inaccuracies in what we and others have said. Reporters at such meetings should either be really skilled shorthand writers—or trained nurses who understand what is being discussed from a professional point of view.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

The following urgent questionnaire has been issued to members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., To quote the vote of the General Nursing Council does not convey its significance unless names and numbers are also given, and as it was taken in camera this cannot be done.

Even if the members of the College Company are willing to hand over their personal responsibilities on the Hours of Employment Bill to their Council,

the "Profession" generally are not so prepared, as evidenced by members of the General Nursing Council, voting to inform the Minister of Health "that they do not approve of the Schedule of the College of Nursing asking for a 56-hours working week, and that they do not approve the special schedule." Hours of employment can only be effectively controlled by law, and we are not greatly in favour of an Education and Registration Statutory Council, which is not entirely a professional body, interfering with nursing economics. The lay vote is sure to be cast from the employers' point of view.

QUESTIONNAIRE.

URGENT.—Please fill in and return this Paper. Your failure to do so will weaken the influence of your Organisation.

To COLLEGE MEMBERS.

According to the Nursing Press the General Nursing Council has voted against the Nursing Profession's inclusion in the Hours of Employment Bill under the Ministry of Labour, and has passed a resolution:—

"That the Minister of Health be asked to introduce a Bill to regulate the hours of Nurses employed in Hospitals or other Institutions for the care of the Sick."

The above resolution would rule out the suggested Special Order supported by Members of the College in connection with the Hours of Employment Bill.

The Council, therefore, submits, for the consideration of Members, the following questions:—

HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT BILL.

1. As a Member of the Nursing Profession, do you wish your Hours of Duty controlled by the State?

2. Would you leave it to the Council of the College to use its influence on behalf of your Profession to regulate the Hours of Service by other means?

1. If you wish the Hours of Duty of the Nursing Profession controlled by the State, should it be as in the present Hours of Employment Bill under the Ministry of Labour—48 hours, and overtime pay according to Trade Union Rules—or should the Bill allow of the Hours of Duty being regulated by a Special Order?

Or

2. Would you prefer, if it were practicable, for your Hours of Duty to be controlled by an Act under the Ministry of Health?

3. Are you a Private Nurse?

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.

1. The Nursing Profession is included in the Unemployment Insurance Act. Do you wish the College to use every effort to get, if it is possible, Nurses excluded from the Act?

(Signed)

Registration No.

Address

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