

without further fee, be placed upon the State Register."

The pledge ran as follows:—"If, therefore, you are on the College Register, you will automatically and without further fee be placed upon the State Register when the Nurses Registration Bill is passed." There is no ambiguity about this statement. The people who originally gave this most indefensible pledge to induce nurses to join the College, and who are legally responsible, together with elected members of the College Council, that the thousands of guineas subscribed shall be forthcoming when required, are:—

The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, *Chairman*.

Miss A. B. Baillie, R.R.C., Matron, Royal Infirmary, Bristol.

Miss E. Barton, R.R.C., Matron, Chelsea Infirmary, S.W.

Mr. Comyns Berkeley, M.C., M.D., F.R.C.P., *Hon. Treasurer*.

Col. Sir James Cantlie, K.B.E.

Miss R. Cox-Davies, R.R.C., Matron, Royal Free Hospital.

Miss A. C. Gibson, late Matron, The Infirmary, Birmingham.

Miss A. W. Gill, R.R.C., Lady Superintendent, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

Professor Glaister, M.D., Glasgow University.

Miss L. V. Haughton, R.R.C., late Matron, Guy's Hospital.

Miss Amy Hughes, late General Superintendent, Q.V.J.I.

Miss A. McIntosh, R.R.C., Matron, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Miss J. Melrose, R.R.C., Matron, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.

Mr. W. Minet, Governor, St. Thomas's Hospital.

Miss E. W. Mowat, Matron, Whitechapel Infirmary.

Miss E. M. Musson, R.R.C., Matron, General Hospital, Birmingham.

Sir Cooper Perry, M.D., F.R.C.P., *Hon. Secretary*.

Miss M. E. Ray, R.R.C., late Matron, King's College Hospital.

Miss M. E. Sparshott, R.R.C., Lady Superintendent, Royal Infirmary, Manchester.

Miss A. Lloyd Still, R.R.C., Matron, St. Thomas's Hospital.

Dame S. A. Swift, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief Joint War Committee.

Dr. H. G. Turney, M.D., F.R.C.P.

Miss C. E. Vincent, R.R.C., Lady Superintendent, Royal Infirmary, Leicester.

Dr. Jane H. Walker.

Miss C. Seymour Yapp, Matron, Union Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne.

We can quite believe that many of the Matrons did not realise their financial responsibility when they issued the tempting pamphlet which together with their personal persuasion, influenced many nurses to join the College; but now that it is pointed out to them, we advise them at once to

issue a truthful statement as an antidote to the ambiguous document sent round in their names, and to insist that the seventeen thousand guineas entrusted to their care by trusting nurses for their State Registration Fee, shall be set aside for that purpose. The audited Balance Sheet presented with the Fifth Annual Report of the College of Nursing, Ltd., shows that £42,508 5s. has been invested up to March, 1920, and that £5,793 8s. 8d. was expended on salaries, printing, and office expenses during the past year in England; £485 17s. 0½d. in Scotland; and £459 10s. 6d. in Ireland—making an expenditure of £6,638 16s. 2½d.—a huge sum in our opinion for any benefits the nurses have received in return—but proving the College has the cash to pay this just debt. Moreover the Chairman has announced that a further £30,000 is available.

This matter is now being very widely discussed not only in the hospital world, but by the public, and will develop into a very serious scandal unless the policy of evasion is at once discontinued and the debt honourably acknowledged. Mr. Comyns Berkeley, the Hon. Sir William Goschen and Dame Sidney Browne, as Joint Hon. Treasurers of the College Company, cannot afford to permit any further ambiguity concerning it. They must reassure the nurses that they are entitled to the payment of this fee, by right and not by courtesy, and that without delay.

### AT LAST!

"My dear Stanley" and "My dear Burnham," have, to speak figuratively, fallen upon one another's necks, through the medium of the *Daily Telegraph*, and mutually congratulated one another upon the closing up of the shilling campaign for the Nation's Nurses. We feel sure their joy is infinitesimal in comparison with the sense of relief experienced by the Nation's Nurses. The news seems too good to be true. To be able to take one's walks abroad without being met on every hoarding by a half naked woman embracing a wounded soldier upon one's behalf (the ferrule of our umbrella has chastised many of these shameless Delilahs!), to open the morning paper knowing that no longer will one find oneself held up as a wretched pauper, dependent upon the charity of patients, and service men—thankful for shilling doles—to be no longer used by second-rate actresses for advertising purposes, is indeed a relief.

It is announced that the public have subscribed close on £100,000 in response to the three years' charitable appeal in the name of the Nation's Nurses, and very naturally the Nation's Nurses want to know where it is, or what has been done with it? We call once more for the audited accounts and balance sheets of this War Charity's Appeal. We note that the *Daily Herald* is also asking the College of Nursing, Ltd., for definite information in this connection.

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