

discipline of the Matrons' action, that some probationers in a London Hospital had said, "When we think of the Great Panjandrum going on strike, we just want to get into a corner and giggle."

The Resolution was then put to the meeting and carried with three dissentients.

RESOLUTION III.

Persecuting the Prophets—Little Hope of Justice for Registered Nurses.

MISS ANDERSON PARSONS moved the next Resolution:—

"That this Meeting claims that the Nursing Profession has a right to know the reason given to the Minister of Health by the members of the General Nursing Council who resorted to direct action, since it is reported on good authority that they made secret and indefensible statements against a distinguished member of the General Nursing Council which they had failed to bring before that Statutory Body, an unconstitutional and un-British method of attack which this Meeting unhesitatingly condemns.

"This public Meeting is of opinion that if such an indefensible attack can be secretly made upon one of their own colleagues, there is very little hope of justice for a Registered Nurse should she be summoned to appear before this judicial body to answer charges made against her."

MISS ANDERSON PARSONS said: Every word of this Resolution is seared into my very soul. It is not one whit too strong, and it embraces our points and puts them very logically, clearly, and honestly. This must be a clean fight. No back stairs methods, no going into corners and putting heads together.

I am not going to make use of any names. I stand here as an Englishwoman of independent spirit, to move a Resolution which is not a question of sentiment, but one of your professional honour and life. In the General Nursing Council we are supposed to have a representative body. Its members, however, are not all agreed. There is a split in the camp, and a number of the members have resorted to the extreme step of direct action. We want a logical reason given us for this conduct. The Minister of Health has stated it had nothing to do with the Certificate question or the Syllabus. Haven't we the right to know what it *has* got to do with, why these people went on strike, and why they were allowed to come back?

It is reported that a personal attack has been secretly made by them, upon one of their own colleagues. What are we going to do about it? If they cannot be loyal to their own colleague, held by the nursing profession throughout the world in the highest esteem, what chance of fair play is there for Registered Nurses.

Where will you find another lady who has given so freely time, and brains, and expert knowledge, for the benefit of the nurses, and the working of the Act? I cannot find words to express my appreciation of the value of her public services. We hope she will not sit down under this attack, and I think we are all agreed she is the last person in the world to do so.

We want to make the Minister feel how deeply distressed and highly indignant we are about this

matter, and we are amazed at the action of women who ought to understand both discipline and loyalty. The attack is a disgrace to English womanhood let alone to the General Nursing Council, and I should like to go round England and express my abhorrence of this dastardly attack. I beg to propose the Resolution.

MISS BREAY said: It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise to second this Resolution. Secret attacks are always to be condemned, and the only reason for resorting to them is that those who engineer them are too cowardly to make them publicly. Such attacks are dangerous, treacherous, cruel and un-British.

I am not prepared to say that they are not "infamous in a professional respect."

If a cabal in the General Nursing Council can make secret statements against a distinguished member of that Council which they have failed to bring before the Council, what hope of justice is there for a Registered Nurse summoned before that Body to answer charges preferred against her? It is serious position for Registered Nurses to face, though happily owing to the wisdom and insistence of our champion, the Nurses' Registration Act provides for an appeal over the heads of the Council to the High Court.

This is but a single instance of the vigilance she has exercised in the interest of the nursing profession in her public work for the nursing profession for over thirty years, and those of us who have worked under her leadership for the standardization of nursing education, know how she has always had the welfare of the nursing profession, and of the sick public, before her, though in the prosecution of this aim she might incur the ill-will of those less single-minded.

From the beginning of the world they have always persecuted the prophets.

The reward of John the Baptist for witnessing for the truth was that his enemy through her daughter demanded his head in a charger. The axe, the stake, the hangman's rope, all have been employed, and always in the long run ineffectively, to silence truth.

The methods of modern warfare have changed. Open methods have given place to secret attacks, and poison gas is now employed, and it is of that insidious and cruel method, so difficult to combat, imported into civil life, of which this Resolution complains.

The executioner's axe employed at the instance of the daughter of Herodias, was at least a straightforward method. Those of the modern daughters of Herodias are more devious, but their objective is the same; the head of another witness for truth—a woman's head this time—is wanted on a charger. Do they, too, wish to take it back to those who "before instructed" them what to ask for?

What is the greatest danger at the present time to the Nursing Profession? I say unhesitatingly the wedge of matrons—members of the College of Nursing Ltd., on the General Nursing Council. Why? Because no man can serve two masters.

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