

They are pledged to support the College Register hastily made when the Registration battle was all but won. The College Council (of which the large majority of Hon. Officers are not nurses but their employers or medical men) have not adopted the wise course of the Royal British Nurses' Association and announced that they will cease publication now that a State Register is established under Act of Parliament. Consequently these matrons are not in an impartial position, but have the interests of the College Register to consider, and especially is this the case when we remember that the Council of the College urged nurses to join it on the distinct pledge that if they did so their names would "automatically, and without further fee" be placed on the State Register when the Nurses' Registration Act was passed, and took 18,000 guineas from nurses on that pledge. When we remember this, the purpose of the new Rule 9A becomes apparent.

College Nurses are to be swept on the Register, by arrangement between the Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and the Registrar of the General Nursing Council, without producing any direct evidence of their qualifications to the Statutory Body. College arrogance, indeed, *in excelsis!*

But it is more. Before the question of giving such arbitrary powers to the Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., are even considered, it ought to disgorge every one of those eighteen thousand guineas. More, it ought to disgorge any money it has received from the Nation's Fund for Nurses as a result of the harrowing of the public feelings by the description of the sufferings and penury of a certain "Nurse Juliet." I here and now throw down to the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., a challenge to produce evidence that Nurse Juliet is not a fake. I say, further, that they have never dissociated themselves from the appeal for this fake, but have been content to receive money contributed by the public in consequence of its having been made.

Is this Limited Company the kind of Body whose Secretary should be given *carte blanche* to pass nurses on to the State Register over the head of the Registration Committee?

What has this to do with the Resolution? Everything. It is because our champion has boldly opposed such methods, because she has stood firm for the liberties of the nurses, for the purity of their Register, for the record of their certificates on the State Register—do not forget how hard the fight has been to defeat that scandalous proposition to deprive us of the record of our hard won certificates—because the College clique on the General Nursing Council well knows that so long as our champion stands in the breach such things cannot be done secretly, that the despicable method of poison gas is employed.

The Nursing Profession has never been subjected to a greater outrage than the present attack upon the champion of their liberties.

I have much pleasure in seconding the Resolution.

During the discussion which followed, Miss Jones (a College member) said that nurses were not compelled to join the College of Nursing.

MISS HURLSTON asked whether original certificates were examined when nurses applied for membership of the College of Nursing and received a reply in the negative.

MISS KINGSFORD said she could not find words to express her disgust at the methods which had been disclosed. Her heart was full up with furious indignation.

The Resolution was then put to the meeting and carried with great enthusiasm, a little group of four or five supporters of the College of Nursing voting against it.

MISS BREAY said presumably these ladies approved of the use of poison gas. (A Voice: Or of a stab in the back.)

RESOLUTION IV.

Inefficient Safeguards in Compiling the Register—Autocratic Power for Registrar.

Miss G. Le Geyt proposed the next Resolution:

"That this Meeting protests against the decision of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to rescind the Rule providing efficient safeguards in compiling the Register of Nurses, and to register nurses without documentary evidence of the professional credentials for registration being submitted to its scrutiny. It considers that a State Register compiled in so casual a manner would be useless to the Medical Profession and the Public, and dangerous to the Nursing Profession.

"Moreover, this Meeting takes strong exception to the Registrar having been empowered by the Council to decide whether or not the credentials of nurses applying for registration shall be placed before the Registration Committee, and to the members of that Committee being compelled to recommend to the Council persons approved by the Registrar, whose applications and credentials they have not been permitted to inspect."

MISS LE GEYT said: To bring home to you the necessity for framing the Resolution which I have asked you to consider, I will read to you the amazingly autocratic resolution carried on the motion of Dr. Goodall at the meeting of the General Nursing Council on February 17th:—

"Notwithstanding anything in these Rules the Council may accept in place of a certificate a copy of the certificate certified by a Justice of the Peace, a Barrister or Solicitor, to be a true copy thereof, or where the applicant is a member of any organised body of nurses, recognised for this purpose by the Council, a declaration signed by the Secretary or other responsible officer of that body that on admission of the applicant to membership the certificate or a certified copy thereof, was produced to, and verified by that body."

To think that such a proposition as implied in the second part of this proposal should be accepted in these democratic days. We all know that the individual, however well-intentioned, is apt to err. The question of infallibility was fought out as long ago as the Reformation.

Is this the sort of mock justice for which we have fought in getting the vote to enable us to

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