

Nurses to practice their profession as Registered Nurses were now signed by two medical men, and that the signature of a nurse member of the Council did not appear upon them. A laywoman had also been placed in the chair of the General Purposes Committee. Thus out of the six Standing Committees constituted under the General Nursing Council the only professional chairman remaining was Miss Lloyd-Still, Chairman of the Education and Examination Committee. The nominees of the Nurses' societies affiliated to the Central Committee who had jealously safeguarded efficient standards of general and financial management, and rightful professional representation on their Governing Body, and who had guarded the rights of individual nurses who pay the whole cost of administering the Act, against a powerful caucus of their employers, who pay nothing, had thus been severely penalised.

It was for the Free Nurses of this country to decide whether, having won legal status, they were going to submit to this treatment, or to subject their representatives who had stood unflinchingly for the protection of their interests to a continuation of such reprehensible methods of intimidation.

#### Statement by Miss Isabel Macdonald.

NOMINEE TO THE MINISTER OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

MISS ISABEL MACDONALD said that the disaster in connection with the General Nursing Council was that the members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., who sat upon it had two masters to serve.

The College of Nursing, Ltd., set out to be the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession, its educational authority, its mouth-piece in the body politic, and the almsgiving authority. They came in to serve this body and the State constituted authority, too; it could not be done, all along they could not be quite disinterested.

The Royal British Nurses' Association was very much against applications not being scrutinized by members of the Registration Committee. In regard to the new Instruction, she was very much surprised that the Registrar was willing to take such responsibility, as it imposed upon her. Personally, nothing would have induced her to do so. During the time that the Royal British Nurses' Association maintained a Register they had several times been threatened, by people whose applications had not been accepted. She was always able to say that the Registration Committee was responsible. She did not consider that the onus of the decision should rest upon any one person. Moreover, the members of the Council had the right to the fullest information as to applications.

In regard to the Resolution reconstituting the Committees, the whole atmosphere of the Council Room vibrated with treachery. The Resolution cloaked a purpose which was not advanced, and the woman who moved the Resolution knew it.

Mrs. Fenwick had referred to the active part taken by members of the Council in the framing of the Rules, but it was only fair to say that every

word in those Rules had either been drafted or most carefully considered by Mrs. Fenwick herself, as Chairman of the Registration Committee. She did that enormous piece of work for the nurses, and it was right that the profession should know it.

#### Statement by Miss Alice Cattell.

NOMINEE TO THE MINISTER OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

MISS CATTELL said that she endorsed everything that had been said. Hardly anyone on the Council was really out for the nurses. If the Register was compiled as at present proposed, it would not be worth the paper it was written on.

#### Statement by Miss Maude MacCallum.

NOMINEE TO THE MINISTER OF THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

MISS MACCALLUM endorsed what had been said by the previous speakers. She also emphasised what the nurses owed to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. No one had any idea how she had worked for them who had not worked with her.

The Minister of Health, in the House of Commons, had referred to the present situation in the General Nursing Council as "an old standing squabble" between two societies. She, therefore, wished to say that she herself came into nursing politics only a few years ago, knowing nothing, but from the first moment she had entered a hospital, she had met with injustices (not to herself) every step of the way. She went on the General Nursing Council loyally intending to do her duty, and she found there one person who really understood the question and knew what was required to build up the profession of nursing through State Registration, and that was Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. She had been falsely accused of holding up Registration, whereas she had worked devotedly to put applications through. Miss MacCallum said that, owing to pressure of other work, she was herself not able to give a great deal of time to scrutinizing applications, but, on each occasion she had attended, she could have worked one, two, or three hours longer had the work been prepared for scrutiny. This was not done, in spite of the large staff in the office. She would like here and now to say that it was a lie to say the work of registration had been held up by the methods of the Chairman of the Registration Committee. Her methods were thorough and expeditious.

Another point she made was that the only people never considered were the nurses. She had never yet heard one member of the Council outside the six nurses' representatives ask what would be the nurses' point of view.

MISS MACCALLUM referred to the re-constitution of the General Purposes Committee and the elimination of the nurse representatives. She found, as a member of that Committee that when she made suggestions in the interests of economy as to the office arrangements they were resented. Now a titled lady had been placed in the chair, and there was no nurse other than a Matron upon it

What other profession, she asked, would submit

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