

Commons on March 22nd. She was certain that even those who had "wobbled" would have had their indignation raised to white heat, and have longed, as she did (though not accustomed to public speaking) to be on the floor of the House of Commons for even five minutes, had they heard the Minister of Health endeavour lightly to brush aside our champion's (Major Barnett's) protest with the remark, "this is really a very old standing squabble which really ought not to trouble the House," and, continuing, make statements showing he had not taken the trouble to inform himself of the history of our prolonged fight for State Registration. One would imagine he thought it began when the College of Nursing came into existence in 1916.

How dare he declare his partiality for one point of view and tell the House he had got those who "downed tools" to go back by promising them his support!

The constitutional method was provided for in the Act, and a previous meeting has pointed it out to the Minister in praying him to dissolve the Council and let the Registered Nurses elect their own representatives.

Another point: The Minister explained that nurses were not registering as was hoped because of the insecurity of the postal arrangements, and he sympathised with that. A fine oligarchy we had got! What was the real reason? It was that nurses do not trust the present General Nursing Council, or understand why a certificate and guinea sent, for instance, in November last, had not yet brought forth a certificate of Registration.

The Central Committee, said Miss Lord, could not be treated lightly. It was recognised in the Nurses' Registration Act, and the societies of nurses affiliated to it would resist any attempt to deprive the Nursing Profession of legal status and other privileges. Our pioneers should not have worked in vain. The £30,000 already expended was not lightly got or given. Nor was it collected from charitable persons, or applied for the donors' own particular benefit.

To many of those who had worked for the Nurses' Act it was too late to be of use, but their work and their money was their gift to the present and future members of their profession. Was this to be lightly thrown away by those who cared less for principle than for gaining their own way?

It was well to remember that many of our opponents signed a public manifesto against State Registration not many years ago, a copy of which could be seen at the office of the N.U.T.N.

Lastly, said Miss Lord, it was no use to say that we would resist unless every individual member of the societies went into the matter heart and soul. We were up against a very stiff fight.

MISS H. HAWKINS, P.L.G., in seconding the resolution, said that in the early days of the war many men went out to fight sorely against their inclinations; they were men of peace and goodwill, who asked nothing better than to be left to follow their own avocations in peace.

But something within them whispered that such peace would be a dishonour.

It was so, she was sure, with most of those gathered together that evening. We had so hoped that the long strife was ended, and that those who had fought so long and so well would now be able to rest on their well-deserved laurels.

But, alas! once more the battle-cry had sounded, and we must once more rally to the colours.

The unworthy threat of His Majesty's Minister uttered in His Commons must perforce arouse in our breasts the instinct of self-preservation. If it were not an idle threat uttered to bring our leaders to heel, then it must be regarded as a warning note, like the boom of the guns preceding an air raid.

As we could not suppose that a serious Minister would waste the time of the Commons in futility, we must consider this utterance in all seriousness. What about it?

Well, of course, we must be prepared to resist by all means in our power usch a monstrous course of action.

In our JOURNAL this week someone asked: "Are we a free nation or are we not?" She would leave someone else to answer that, but we had it on the Highest Authority that "only the Truth can make us free."

To fight for truth and justice would mean self-sacrifice. It must mean above all that we shunned the lure of popularity as we shunned the devil.

She imagined the pursuit of it had caused more secession in the ranks of those who once fought the good fight alongside of us than any other cause.

Right did not always win, but we must not let that daunt us. Rather let us take for our motto the words of the Roman matron to her son on the eve of battle: "Return with your shield or upon it."

In absolute confidence she said that those words were engraven deep on the hearts of our champion leader, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, of her able ally, Miss Margaret Breay, and of those other fighters for the right whose names they had heard. It was with great pleasure that she seconded the Resolution.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

### Resolution III.

That this Meeting protests against a medical man being placed in the Chair of the Registration Committee, because (1) it is most undesirable that medical practitioners should grasp any further executive power over the interdependent Profession of Nursing in its own General Nursing Council, and (2) because by omitting the signature of a Registered Nurse-member of the Council from the certificate authorising holders to use the title of "Registered Nurse," the status of Nursing as a Profession will be ignored and depreciated.

This meeting also protests against a laywoman having been elected by Matrons to the important position of Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, which Committee regulates and supervises the work of the professional and clerical staff in the Office (the cost of which Office is upwards of £5,000 a year)

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