

A PUBLIC SCANDAL.

It is not too much to state that bitter indignation is widespread amongst those Registered Nurses who think for themselves, at the mismanagement of the Election for their representatives on to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and they naturally blame every member of the Council for the discredit brought upon their profession.

Wholesale condemnation is not fair.

The proceedings of the Council Meetings, which have been carefully and accurately reported in this Journal, prove that by secret co-operation outside the Council independent members were removed from Executive Committees, that powers of organisation and control of the Council's business have been ruthlessly monopolised by the medical, lay, and College nominees, and that the minority, consisting of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Villiers, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss MacCallum, Miss Cattell, and Mr. Christian, have over and over again been voted down without discussion by the majority, on all questions for the liberal interpretation of the Nurses' Act, and in support of the rights and privileges granted to them by Parliament. Office disorganisation, waste of money, rescinding just Rules, deprivation of liberty of speech and action for the minority have been the notorious policy supported by the majority. I for one decline to be made responsible, or blamed for, the results of this official policy.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

FRENCH ANTI-CANCER CAMPAIGN.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* reports:—

"The recent inauguration of an elaborate system of cancer treatment at the Tenon Hospital in Paris under the direction of Dr. Proust, and of a similar installation at the Hôtel-Dieu under Dr. Hartmann, has now given Paris a definite service, from which much is hoped. In Paris alone there are over 350 deaths a month from this disease, which is slowly spreading." It is intended to establish similar systems shortly at various provincial centres.

"The new movement is largely due to the joint activities of the Franco-Anglo-American Association against Cancer. The organisation in the two hospitals involves the use of both Röntgen rays and radium emanations. Dr. Hartmann himself takes a conservative view of the prospects of success, and insists that radio-therapeutic and surgical treatment should both be continued without bias in favour of one to the exclusion of the other."

NURSING ECHOES.

The appointment of Miss Gertrude M. Bulman to the position of Matron of the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, London, is a feather in the cap of Provincial Nurse-Training Schools, and will emphasize the fact that the training, teaching, and experience in administrative work, in such leading hospitals as the Leeds General Infirmary, qualifies a nurse to attain appointment as Matron to leading Metropolitan hospitals. This is only fair, as the fine Provincial Training Schools offer experience equal to that provided in the Metropolis—in some instances they exceed them in clinical material and organization.

We are pleased to note press reports from all over the country commending the beneficence of the State Registration of Nurses by Act of Parliament. Would that the medical men, matrons and others, now so enthusiastic concerning the principle of State Organization of Nursing, had not opposed it for a quarter of a century, and cost its promoters and advocates £30,000 in propaganda.

College advocates trotting around the Provinces sounding the praises of the College candidates for election on the General Nursing Council carefully omit to record the work done by the pioneers, and claim all the credit for legislation for these women, many of whose names appear on the Anti-Registration Manifestoes which held up legislation for a quarter of a century, and who, although avaricious of power to govern the profession, are as "anti" in spirit as ever they were.

Miss Cowlin, an apostle for the College candidates in the West (herself a candidate), has a poor record in this connection. Years ago, when her colleagues were spending time, health, and every penny they could spare, in promoting registration, she offered help, and when gladly accepted wrote to say "her brother considered her work should be paid for!" Although possessing a private income, not an hour's work was given by Miss Cowlin, or, indeed, when a salary was refused, did the pioneers ever hear of her again! Now that the wonderful dream of legal status and organised education for nurses has come true, those who gave nothing offer themselves for rewards!

We feel many nurses have been horrified at recent press reports of gross and horrible cruelty to animals, and the pettifogging fines

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