

subscriptions will be merely nominal. But a sufficient guarantee fund will be raised for the purpose of promoting Bills in Parliament for the Registration of Nurses, session after session, until legislation is effected, and in this connection we understand that already promises of very influential support in both Houses of Parliament have been secured. Each District Committee and the Central Council will also make systematic inquiries into the working of the Nursing Departments of the Hospitals in their respective localities. A very simple code of regulations, which can equally apply to all Hospitals, large or small, will be drawn up, and form the basis of the reforms which each Committee will, if necessary, seek to obtain. Finally, as soon as the scheme is quite matured, meetings are to be held in London and all the large provincial towns, in order to draw public attention to the objects of the League, and to the urgent necessity which exists for the adoption of the reforms which it will advocate.

We have said that we view this programme with very mingled feelings, because, while pleasure naturally predominates at the probability of reforms being effected, in the near future, which we have for so long steadfastly advocated in the face of the greatest opposition and misrepresentation, we cannot but feel, at the same time, very considerable apprehension. We have, again and again, pointed out to the authorities of the few Hospitals which oppose the Registration of Nurses, that they have adopted an attitude which must inevitably bring them, sooner or later, into conflict with the charitable public upon whose free-will offerings the very existence of their Institutions depends. We have pointed out the absolutely suicidal policy of the London Hospital, for example, in opposing a measure so necessary for the protection of the sick against ignorant and untrustworthy Nurses, as Registration manifestly is; and the more so because it is palpable to everyone that, in this opposition, the Hospital is chiefly, if not only, actuated by the great desire that the public shall have no means of learning that this Institution is the chief offender in palming off semi-trained Nurses upon the sick in private houses. It is quite useless to argue with the Committee of the London Hospital. They are satisfied to have wrung nearly £1,400 net profits last year out of the labour of their under-paid and over-worked employées. They will not understand that the Charity is disgraced by having made

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these enormous profits by deceiving the public in sending out semi-trained pupils when "thoroughly-trained Nurses" were promised, asked, and paid for; by deceiving women who it had solemnly promised should be "trained for the full period of two years in its Wards," by interrupting their education and sending them out to earn money for the Hospital; by over-working the Nurses left behind, and causing the patients to be necessarily neglected because their attendants were taken away from them. We have no pity for the Committee of the London Hospital, and shall extend none to them when the inevitable crash comes—as it may come any day. Our apprehension is, lest all Hospitals should become classed in the public mind in the same category as this Institution, and thus the grandly beneficent work which they perform be hampered. None of them are perfect, but at most of them we firmly believe that the managers realise the responsibility with which they have been entrusted, and are earnestly desirous of fulfilling their duties to the utmost of their abilities. From all parts of the country we hear of improvements being effected in Hospital Nursing. We sincerely hope that the work achieved by the District Committees of the new Society will be evidenced by increased local interest in each country Hospital, and thus that additional usefulness as well as increased efficiency will be secured.

For the chief object of the League—the attainment of an Act of Parliament placing the Registration of Nurses under State control—we have nothing but praise, and from what we learn of the proposed organisation, and the most influential support which it has already secured, there can be little doubt that success is certain. And now once more we appeal to St. Thomas's, Guy's, King's College, the Westminster, and the few Provincial Hospitals which have opposed the institution of Registration, and—as we have appealed before—on the ground of their own reputation. Mr. WAINWRIGHT, Mr. LUSHINGTON, Dr. WACE, and the DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, we ask you, as the heads of the four Hospitals we have named, What do you really desire to do? To prevent the Certificates, which Nurses have received from the various Hospitals which trained them, being published in one General Register? To enable Nurses who have been imprisoned for various crimes to prey upon the public again as soon as they leave prison? You have used all your influence to oppose three thousand Trained

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