

to deprive trained nurses of the record of their certificates in the published State Register. The representatives of the working nurses were alarmed beyond measure at this proposition. Imagine, for instance, the case of two nurses, one trained in 1921 and the other in 1926. Say that, soon after the latter date, a doctor has an important case or a patient desires to know the respective qualifications of these nurses. He goes to the State Register as a matter of course to find that the first nurse is entered merely as "trained" while the second is entered as holding a "certificate by examination" from the General Nursing Council of England and Wales. We need not waste space in pointing out the terrible economic disadvantage at which the first would be placed. Or take another case on a larger scale. Some enterprising co-operation or private nursing staff, seeing the advantage at which the second nurse is placed, and perhaps anxious to get rid of its older nurses and start afresh, might very well pass a Resolution to the effect that it would only employ nurses entered on the State Register as holding a "certificate by examination." A staff pursuing such a course would naturally make capital by advertising it as widely as possible, with the result that not only the nurses it shuffled off itself, but all private nurses who are now commencing their careers would be placed in a most dangerous position. There is not the faintest doubt that the passage of the Resolution would have led to many injustices of all sorts, but it was dressed in a beautiful garment—much talk about consideration for nurses who trained before certificates were given. These nurses are, few of them, working now, and so would not have suffered economically. But there are those in high places in the College who possess no certificate, and, more important still, the notification of certificates, on the State Register, was going to expose the fact that, on the College Register, nurses are credited with certificates who do not possess them. And Mrs. Bedford Fenwick keenly alive to the economic danger and professional injustice to be perpetrated upon the younger nurses by the proposed Resolution, tore off the beautiful garment, and exposed the Resolution and all that it covered.

CONVERSATIONS AND CAMOUFLAGE.

Then what happened? Those who profess to have tried to work harmoniously went on strike, but that they dressed in a beautiful garment, too, and called it "a restful interregnum." Then came "conversations" with Mr. L. G. Brock, who controls nursing affairs at the Ministry of Health, and the makers of the now discarded Resolution agreed to come back if Mrs. Fenwick could be "gagged" and removed from the Registration Chair. So another ugly thing was dressed in a fine garment, this time by Miss Coulton, who haltingly gave reasons for moving her resolution, which she knew covered a hidden purpose. However, it went through in its fine clothes and the Committees were reconstituted with the result agreed upon behind the scenes. Then

came Rule 9 (A) dressed, too, in its fine gown, "to speed up Registration," but, alas, we found the Council by no means so ardent in this direction, when, at the December meeting, *upwards of 800 nurses* whose papers had been found in order by the Registration Committee, had their applications held up, thereby depriving them, though they applied before October 1st, of their votes, and, further, upwards of 3,000 applications were lying incomplete in the office. Such were the tactics found necessary to secure a monopoly for the College candidates on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and these are the people who control nursing ethics and discipline!

CELTIC SONG.

MRS. KENNEDY FRASER'S RECITAL AT THE R.B.N.A. CLUB.

On Wednesday, February 7th, I was privileged once more to enter the gates of the "House Beautiful" and make one of the large and delighted audience that listened spellbound to the Gaelic Folk Music rendered by those well-known exponents, Mrs. Kennedy Fraser and her sister, Miss Margaret Kennedy. Sir Harold Boulton presided, and both he and Mrs. Kennedy Fraser added to the pleasure of the hearers by those interesting comments on the subject which their almost life-long association with it enabled them to make. It was indeed an experience to be grateful for—to listen to such singing—to be given of the fruits of an eighteen years' gathering from that wild and lovely garden of song which grows in the hearts of the people of the West. In these eighteen years of Mrs. Kennedy Fraser's "labour of love," she has evidently explored that garden in all its phases and blended into her art the joys, tears, hopes and sorrows of the Highlanders with whom she dwelt. To the music critics one may leave the "technique" of our singers; it had, no doubt, its part in the witchery—but there was more than technique; there was "atmosphere"—we "saw" the "Old Crone" come "hirplin' doon" the road, humorously lamenting her bygone charms; we "heard" the lapping of the waves that drowned the victim in the "Sea-tangle" song; and we were strangely moved by the story of the "wraith" that bent crooning over her orphan child, to inspire the stepmother who had neglected him to perform her duty. No greater success can be achieved by a folk singer than this, and in thus interpreting the spirit of the native lies surely the secret of such a task. "The meaning of a song goes deep" says Carlyle. We are indebted to those singers and students who, like these gifted sisters, dig deep enough to bring its beauties within the grasp of less expert music lovers.

Tea was provided, during which delighted comments were made on all sides, thus testifying to the universal appreciation of the entertainment.

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