

Sir Colin Keppel's communication in the following terms:—

The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council,
431, Oxford Street, London, W.

February 15th, 1923.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge your communication of February 14th, referring to a paragraph which appeared in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING (Feb. 10th).

No breach of the law is contemplated by the members of the Civic and Professional Rights Sub-Committee of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, which is composed of some twelve Registered Nurses, well acquainted with the methods of procedure in visiting the House of Commons, to which they intend strictly to conform.

Our object is to interview members of the House, whose constituents we are, and others, and this will, of course, be carried out in the usual constitutional manner.

During the *fifteen years* in which I was a constant visitor to the Lobbies of the Houses of Parliament in support of the Nurses' Registration Bills (1904-1919), my relations with the police—who, you warn me, have been apprised of our visit—were of a specially cordial nature, and I hope may continue to be so.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ETHEL G. FENWICK

(Registered Nurse),

(Mrs. Bedford Fenwick).

To Rear-Admiral Sir Colin Keppel,

K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O.,

Serjeant-at-Arms.

Naturally the enfranchised Registered Nurses who form the Civic and Professional Rights Committee, proceeded to the Outer Lobby of the House of Commons at the time appointed. They had lawful business there. As we neared the House we noticed posses of police carefully guarding the surroundings and approaches to it, but realised that these stalwart guardians of law and order had not been called out on our account, so we passed into its hospitable halls with the assurance of long custom, and went about our lawful business without let or hindrance, and with the aid of our colleagues spent a very profitable hour.

We hope the Serjeant-at-Arms will, however, not permit himself any perturbation on our account in the future, as our visits will necessarily be frequent, and that he will ask for some explanation from the "mendacious babbler" who put him on the scent of a mare's nest!

When the members of the Registered Nurses' Rights Committee left the House, they came face to face with the Hunger Marchers—hun-

dreds of men, making known their tragic circumstances by a Poster Parade down Bridge Street and past the Abbey. Naturally we stood on the kerb to study their faces and condition. Naturally we sympathised with them. Victims ourselves of mean trickery, in a professional sense, from the arrogant agents of our employers, practically dispossessed of the soul and spirit of nursing legislation (self-determination) so ardently desired, without which mere material benefits are dust and ashes, we could vision the agony of these men, dispossessed of all that makes human life worth living, who whilst tramping firmly, in their broken boots, and poor clothes, have little to hope for but a pauper's grave in this world. Anyway, they have the courage to protest against their martyrdom, and are thus an example to Registered Nurses where civic and human liberty are at stake.

E. G. F.

REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Civic and Professional Rights Committee was held on Saturday, February 17th, at 431, Oxford Street, W., Councillor Beatrice Kent presiding.

A very satisfactory report was received from those members who visited the Lobby of the House of Commons on the previous day, and further action was agreed.

The capture through Rule 9 (A) by the College of Nursing Company (the employers' union) of the Nurses' Governing Body—the General Nursing Council for England and Wales—and by the election of Sir Wilmot Herringham as Chairman, it was realised that a very dangerous autocracy was being established over a body of women workers, granted professional and legal status by Parliament, and it was agreed to take vigilant steps to protect rights so granted.

Membership of the R.N.P.C. is open to all Registered Nurses on the General and Supplementary Parts of the Register. Application forms may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, R.N.P.C., 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1. Annual subscription, 1s.

A DANGEROUS PROFESSIONAL POSITION.

We have to thank Miss E. L. C. Eden for her lucid criticism of a very misleading statement which appeared in a recent issue of the *Poor Law Officers' Journal*:—

The Grange, Kingston, Taunton,
February 11th, 1923.

The Editor, *Poor Law Officers' Journal*.

SIR,—I shall be greatly obliged if you will allow me to comment on the conclusions drawn in your

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