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EDITORIAL.

THE ELECTION OF NURSE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

We received a report of the composition of the new General Nursing Council as we went to press last week, but have not yet received from the Returning Officer an Official Report of the Election of the direct representatives of the Nurses.

In this Report should appear :—

- (1) The total number of persons entitled to vote in each Section.
- (2) The total number of Voting Papers received in each Section.
- (3) The number of spoiled papers, and why the voters were disqualified.

These details, with the exception of why voters were disqualified, were, of course, at once announced to the Scottish Nurses by the Registrar of the General Nursing Council for Scotland, when the election of their nine representatives took place in November last.

A PACKED COUNCIL.

Never, should we imagine, has any professional body of workers been placed in so degraded a position as the Nurses registered on the General Part of the Register for England and Wales, some 5,500 of whom have voted to place in office women who combined, by a tricky policy, to draft the now notorious unjust Rule 9 (A), to give them preference on the State Register over their colleagues, who have refused to become members of a Company which is, in effect, one of the most dangerous oligarchies of employers in this country—women, moreover, who have betrayed the interests of the whole Nursing Profession over and over again, during their recent term of office, supported, we regret to say, by the lay and medical members of the Council.

Those of us who are determined not to be governed by Sir Arthur Stanley, Sir E. Cooper Perry, and Dr. E. W. Goodall, can only congratulate ourselves that some 17,000

College nurses have failed to subscribe to the whip-up, and add their votes to those of their more servile colleagues.

That the Government has renominated eight of the nine " strikers " proves the complicity of the Permanent Officials in the Ministry of Health, who have power to meddle with our professional affairs, and the high-handed attitude of these bureaucrats towards the rank and file of the Nursing Profession.

Miss Maude MacCallum, in her statement of her attendance at the opening of the Ballot Papers at Headquarters, reports that—in spite of giving notice that she considered the outer envelopes should not be opened excepting in the presence of the assessors, and those candidates who chose to exercise their right to be present—she found upon arrival that the Chairman (the Returning Officer) and the Registrar had opened the outside envelopes, and, as Returning Officer, Sir Wilmot Herringham had put aside as " spoiled papers " those stated not to have been enclosed in the covering envelope—whether they were correctly inscribed or no—without reference to the assessors or candidates.

We agree with Miss MacCallum that such a proceeding was highly indecorous, if not illegal, and is only one more proof of the dictatorial attitude of the Chairman towards members of a profession he was purposely appointed to intimidate, and has no right to control, but who have been sold into bondage by the self-interested and servile women who have, without protest, submitted to his uncouth methods; who have sat through meeting after meeting without opening their lips in protest, against methods of procedure which would be inexcusable in dealing with Indian squaws.

We want to assure kind friends who have apparently taken the result of the Election very much to heart, that there must be no repining. The result of the Election was known to us when Rules 9 (A) and 43 (2) were secretly drafted during the Strike, and thrust through the Council, and Parliament, as the result, in the first instance, of the College determination to " nobble " the Council, and

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