

large a demand upon their vital forces. Sister Bergliot Larsson told the International Council of Nurses recently that a nurse cannot do acute work continuously—"she would die." There is a strong case, therefore, for keeping the mild and chronic cases in the hands of graduate nurses, firstly because the patient will be best served, and secondly because this ought to be kept for those who, being efficiently trained, and with further experience are best qualified to give it. The question is mainly one of organisation.

(To be continued.)

### HOW THE COLLEGE CAUCUS CAPTURED THE COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 365, June 9th.)

I closed my last article on this matter with the words, "The nurse of twenty years ago was a much more robust type of woman than those of the present day, and rose as one woman to protect themselves from control by a caucus of financiers."

This referred to the Guy's Hospital scheme promoted by Sir E. Cooper Perry, entitled the "Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses," which, signed by some seven financiers in the City of London, provided for the absolute control and subjugation of Nurses, and which, in a modified form, emerged in 1915 as the College of Nursing, Ltd.

To protest against the application of these wealthy laymen to the Board of Trade for the Incorporation of the Society the nurses of the day in England, Scotland, and Ireland held meetings of vigorous protest, and attended in force in a Deputation which was received at the Board of Trade Office on May 5th, 1905.

The Societies represented were:—

- The British Medical Association.
- The British Gynæcological Society.
- Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.
- The Royal British Nurses' Association.
- The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.
- The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.
- The League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses.
- The Scottish Committee for Promoting the State Registration of Trained Nurses.
- The Irish Nurses' Association.
- The Metropolitan Infirmary Matrons.
- The Central Hospital Council for London.
- For the London Hospital—Miss Mackintosh, Assistant Matron.

For the Signatories for Incorporation of the Society, only Mr. Cosmo Bonsor, Treasurer of Guy's Hospital, attended, together with Miss Swift, Matron, Guy's Hospital, Miss Catherine J. Wood, Sir Henry Burdett, and Miss Maule of the Midwives Institute.

A full report of the proceedings appeared in this JOURNAL on May 13th, 1905, and the cogent argu-

ments used by every speaker against the subjugation and control of the Nursing Profession by City millionaires and medical practitioners is as applicable to the College Constitution as it was to the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education of Nurses; so few alterations (excepting the name) appear in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the two organisations.

The Deputation at the Board of Trade was received by Mr. Barnes, Comptroller of the Companies' Department, and in opening the proceedings he stated that an immense number of objections had been received to the scheme. A pile of these about a foot high was on the table at his side, and the President of the Board of Trade (Lord Salisbury) thought it only just and right that these objections which appeared so important to those who advanced them should be heard in detail. He explained that the Board's only power was to refuse the Society to incorporate without the word "limited," to omit which word the Society had applied for. (In 1916 the College dare not risk the inevitable opposition to such an appeal, and hurriedly applied for incorporation as a limited company.)

Sir James Crichton-Browne pointed out that the Royal British Nurses' Association, through its Royal Charter, had all the powers required, and pointed out that the Association opposed the application of the Society because "it was inopportune, and a gratuitous and unnecessary encroachment on the work of the Association, not only so, but it was vicious in principle. Two Bills for the Registration of Nurses were before the House. "Was it," he asked, "expedient that legal status should be given to this Society, whose object appeared to be to steal a march upon the registrationists (prophetic words, indeed!) so as to obtain, before the legislation which all hoped and believed was inevitable, that status which they could not afterwards hope to gain."

He proposed that consideration of the application should be postponed until after the Select Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to inquire into the expediency of Registration of Nurses had reported to the House.

[This suggestion was ultimately agreed to by the Board of Trade].

Mr. Charles Burt and the Hon. Sydney Holland (Lord Knutsford) advanced the views of the Central Hospital Council for London; the former thought the application should be refused at once, as it would be a close corporation, and would not satisfy the nurses, and he was quite sure it would not satisfy the hospitals. The Hon. Sydney Holland said the Society he represented objected to the principle of Registration altogether. The difference between the proposed Registration by the Society, and that by the State was that the former would probably fail, while State Registration would succeed. In relation to a Matron's reference being a necessity for registration, such a reference would be perfunctory; thus, at the London Hospital if they had anyone not particularly good they could shunt her on to the R.B.N.A.

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