

had been agreed on February 17th in their reports of the proceedings. Comment is superfluous!

Of course the Council voted down my Resolution and supported this totally illegal proceeding. Thus College Members came romping on to the State Register, on copies of credentials which had never been "certified," whilst free nurses had to produce "certified" credentials, which took time to procure, and at least 800 of them were thus disqualified from taking part in the Election.

During months antecedent to the Election the College sent paid agents around the country, amongst them Miss Cowlin and Miss Sherriff MacGregor, to "instruct" the nurses. To listen to them it would appear that the profession owed State Registration to the College of Nursing. Not a word of the thirty years' work of the Registration pioneers. Not a word of the wrecking of the Nurses' Registration Bill by College M.P.s! Not a word of anti-registration manifestoes which the majority of College candidates had signed! Not a word of the Cox-Davies' attempt to deprive Existing Nurses of evidence of certification on the published Register! Not a word of the bullying of defenceless nurses by medical autocrats behind closed doors! These agents advocated the policy they were paid to promote—and an ignorant nursing community were easily beguiled.

The Election, bungled by office disorganisation (which, of course, the nurses had to pay for), after one abortive attempt, was ultimately held on January 24th, 1923.

The College policy—might against right—triumphed, as it usually does, when social influence and filthy lucre are opposed to honourable dealing.

The College Caucus captured the Council, and the profession of nursing, for the time being, has ceased to exist—as an articulate community.

#### A SUMMARY.

Thank God I was born and bred amongst gentlefolk—people, that is to say, who loved truth and honourable dealing, who were instinctively courageous and fought fair—to whom the slandering and bullying of women was as repugnant as poison gas would have been to Bayard. Association with the majority of persons composing the General Nursing Council was absolutely demoralising—to be released from such association an immense relief.

So far, the existing Council has a sordid record. Its control can but evoke a sordid standard of nurses and nursing.

But, by and by, a new era will arise. The worthy members of so noble a profession as that of Nursing will sweep away obstruction to their holy aspirations. They will demand and secure freedom of conscience, to use their own brains, to exercise their own discretion, to give to the community full measure well pressed down.

And then, when this glorious epoch arrives, I—though buried deep in earth for many a day—will rejoice that the martyrdom of the pioneers, has been after all tribulation, the mainspring of the evolution of the Profession I love.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

## COMITÉ AMERICAIN POUR LES RÉGIONS DEVASTÉES DE LA FRANCE.

### SERVICE D'HYGIÈNE ET DES NURSES VISITEUSES.

We quote just a few items from the very inspiring *Bulletin*, issued by Miss Evelyn T. Walker, of the activities of the fine work of which she is Directrice:—

The Nursing Department offers apologies to its friends for the delay in the September *Bulletin*, but everyone will understand how difficult it has been to continue routine work with all the changes that have been taking place in the American Committee.

#### PROPOSED ASSOCIATION.

It has always been understood in our Committee that when the American Committee decided to leave France sufficient money would be left to finance our Nursing Department for three years, or until the school in Paris was functioning and ready to send its Public Health Pupils to the Nursing Service in the Aisne.

After consideration, however, it was decided that it would be much wiser to employ the money of the American Committee as capital and to use only the interest. Of course, this will not give us even half of our present running expenses, but just as soon as we are a recognised French Association we can apply for subventions from the Government, the State, and the towns, and we are hoping that we shall be able to continue our work on the same scale as at present.

The officials at the Préfecture, at the Ministry in Paris, and at the mairie in Soissons, give us the strongest encouragement, and have all promised to become members of our governing board.

We are not at all blind to the fact that the working conditions for some of us will be very much more difficult than when we simply got our cheque from the Paris office, but we have never been afraid of difficulties, and in this way the work will become permanent, and even, we hope, will develop on a much larger scale.

By the way, our new name is to be "Association d'Hygiène Sociale de l'Aisne," with a sub-heading, "Foundation of the Comité Américain pour les Régions Dévastées."

#### FRESH AIR WORK.

CAMIERS.—Our boys returned from Camiers, most of them in excellent conditions, but unfortunately one of our boys, the son of our cook at Soissons, contracted pneumonia, and died at Camiers after a brief illness of forty-eight hours.

ALSACE.—We spoke in our summer *Bulletin* of the camp at Bischwiller, where they almost kidnapped our nurse, but there is a sequel to that story, and it is so deliciously French that we are sure all our readers will enjoy it.

The same nurse was sent to Bischwiller to bring back the boys, with instructions to let

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