

**HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRESIDENT AND THE EARL OF MACDUFF.**

Last month there appeared in the JOURNAL some very beautiful pictures of Royal children, and with the gracious permission of Her Royal Highness we are able to reproduce a new photograph of Princess Arthur of Connaught and the Earl of Macduff. A very handsome Highlander is the young Earl, and we hear that he is already a keen sportsman, and that the "gentle art" absorbs a great part of the time he spends at Mar Lodge each summer.

**THE NURSING HOMES' REGISTRATION BILL.**

An account of developments in relation to the Nursing Homes' Registration Bill appears in another part of the Journal so that we need not recapitulate these here but we reprint the letter sent, on behalf of the Association, to the Medical Members of the House of Commons and other Members of Parliament in relation to "Christian Science Nursing Homes."

SIR,—I am instructed to write to you in relation to amendments which, it is proposed, should be introduced into the Nursing Homes' Registration Bill and which give to the Minister of Health powers to grant exemption, from the operations of the Act (if the Bill becomes Law), to Nursing Homes carried on in accordance with the practice and principles of the body known as the Christian Church Scientists.

It appears to the Association that such institutions have, in the first place, no claim whatever to the title of Nursing Homes, they do not employ Registered Nurses nor do they recognise Medical and Nursing qualifications as defined by the Medical and Nursing Acts. They are, very properly, not referred to in the Bill in its present form and to introduce those amendments would actually place them in a privileged position, would permit of their working under conditions which would not be tolerated in Homes liable to inspection, and, moreover, such exemption by the Minister would inevitably result in propaganda and advertisement which would arouse a false sense of security, in the minds of a large section of the public, in the efficiency of these institutions to deal with the treatment and nursing of sick people.

Furthermore, these amendments actually give to a Government Department a certain right to determine professional standards, which should be the prerogative of bodies of professional experts only.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

194, Queen's Gate,  
London, S.W.7.

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary.

**GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL ELECTION.**

The General Nursing Council Election results have been just those anticipated since it became known that Annie Viscountess Cowdray was financing the candidature of one section of the Nursing Profession and its policy against another. Thereon several Nurses, who had been considering whether they would stand, decided that "if it was to be a financed Council" there was nothing to be gained by wasting their money, and using up time, that might more usefully be spent in other ways than contesting the Election, although two Private Nurses decided to stand, in spite of the fact that their pockets were not likely to be able to compete with Lady Cowdray's financial support to their opponents. They felt strongly that it was right to stand,

as a protest against the action of the College of Nursing Limited in nominating and supporting, with lay financial backing, an uncertificated Nurse as the representative of Nurses in Private Practice.

Members of the Association (and especially those who were promoters of the Registration Movement, when those, now glad to make use of lay money to capture seats on the Council, were the strongest opponents of State Registration) feel that Lady Cowdray's is an unwarranted interference in professional organisation and that, while she has no right to throw a weight of financial power to one side or other of the Election of the Governing Body of a Profession to which she does not belong, equally those who have taken advantage of her money have not reached the understanding that, ethically, for whatever object they may accept contributions from the laity, such contributions should never be accepted for election contests.

Professional policy should be influenced by conviction and conscience only, and to take money from the laity to

fight an election is apt to be regarded, not merely as dangerous, but as "hitting below the belt," especially by those who have, throughout their professional lives, been the actual pioneers of professional progress and legislation.

We have had enquiries from Members asking how it is that an Act of Parliament can be manipulated by such tactics, and no doubt, at its next Meeting, the Executive Committee will consider the best means of protesting against the unwarranted interference with the free operation of the Act in relation to the Elections of the General Nursing Council.

**DONATIONS.**

HOUSE BEAUTIFUL FUND.—Miss E. M. Davies, £3 3s.; Miss Hulme, £1 1s.; Mrs. Northwood, Miss Flora Macdonald £1.

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT, PRESIDENT OF THE R.B.N.A., AND THE EARL OF MACDUFF.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)