

### THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

We published last month the resolution expressing the considered opinion of the Parliamentary Committee of the College of Nursing, on the "Nursing Profession (Wages and Hours) Bill,"—a resolution which we learn on good authority was submitted to and approved by the Branches. This resolution expressed the opinion that the interests of the Nursing Profession and the public on standards of hours of duty and salary can best be settled by the nurses themselves, acting through their organisations.

Some surprise has, therefore, been aroused by the action of Miss Geraldine Bremner—a member of the Council of the College of Nursing, and one of its nominees on the General Nursing Council—in sending the following letter to its official organ, the *Nursing Times*.

Under the heading "Anti-Bill," Miss Bremner writes: "In scanning the Nursing Press, I note that nurses are feeling that their organisations, in opposing the Wages and Hours Bill, are not representing their wishes. Under these



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President of The Matrons' Council of Great Britain.

circumstances, I feel that they should write direct to Mr. Brockway at the House of Commons, plainly and shortly stating their views on the matter. They should not only fill his letter box, but see that he gets sacks of letters arriving at his office, and this should be done at once. This is no time for nurses to be sitting still.

They must be up and doing."

No one questions the right of Miss Bremner to form what opinions she chooses on a form of legislation which thousands of her colleagues in the College of Nursing, who were never consulted by Mr. Brockway, realise would be most disastrous to their interests and to those of their patients; but loyalty is apparently a virtue not considered necessary by Miss Bremner in her association with her colleagues on the Council of the College of Nursing, as we learn she failed to inform them of her intended attack on Mr. Brockway's letter box; and those sacks of letters—which attentions we can imagine might not be received by a busy M.P. with unmitigated delight! It is more than probable, however, that those sacks failed to cause the obstruction anticipated—and all is well!

### THE NIGHTINGALE FELLOWSHIP.

The Annual Nightingale Memorial Service will take place in the Chapel, St. Thomas's Hospital, on Sunday, May 17th, 1931, at 10.30 a.m., when the Sermon will be preached by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Annual Dinner and Meeting will be held on Monday, May 18th; the Dinner at 7 p.m., for which tickets must be obtained; and the Annual Meeting, which is open to all members, at 8.45 for 9 p.m.

### THE SCOTTISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The following letter has been sent by the Scottish Nurses' Association to all Scottish Members of Parliament:—

SIR,  
THE NURSING PROFESSION (WAGES AND HOURS) BILL.

We, the Executive Committee of the Scottish Nurses' Association at a meeting held on March 26th, 1931, resolved unanimously that a protest against this Bill should be addressed to Scottish Members of Parliament.

Our objections are stated in what we consider the order of their importance:—

1.—So far as is known, NO BODY OR ORGANISATION OF REGISTERED NURSES HAS BEEN CONSULTED ON a matter which will have such far-reaching consequences for their profession.

2.—PAYMENT OF PROBATIONERS at £40, £50, £60, for three years in training.

(1) Women who have no love of nursing would be tempted into the profession by the money offered.

(2) As these Probationers are receiving full board, uniform and laundry expenses, in addition to free lectures and instruction, which are equal to a minimum value of £100 per annum, they are being paid at the rate of £140, as students or apprentices, surely an unnecessary toll on the hospital.

3.—SALARIES OF FULLY-TRAINED NURSES AND SISTERS.

(1) In comparison with those offered to Probationers, these

are grossly inadequate, and the rate of advance equally incompatible.

(2) The under-payment of the responsible and fully-trained nurses is one reason for the shortage of the highest type of nurse.

(3) No mention is made of superannuation, the clamant need of the profession to-day.

4.—44 HOURS WEEK.

(1) The patient, for whom the hospital exists, will have a poorer chance of recovery owing to the lack of continuity of interest and knowledge which is created by short terms of duty for the nurse.

(2) The increase of staff and accommodation necessitated by this arrangement would put a strain on the Voluntary Hospital, and in the case of the rate-supported Hospital on the finances of the country, which can ill be borne at the present juncture.

In our opinion, the question of hours can best be met by longer holidays, that of salaries by better payment of the responsible and trained nurse.

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