

by the Government, but is a private body; (2) is largely composed of employers of nurses; and (3) the Royal College is not the governing body of the Nursing Profession, but one organisation of nurses among others, and, therefore, its views should not be accepted as from the whole nursing profession; and (4) that as many Registered nurses are now serving their country they cannot attend to nursing politics, and that in their absence no steps should be taken which might prove derogatory to their economic condition.

Miss Frances G. Goodall, General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, in her reply, does nothing to disprove Miss Hardy's statements, and her allusion to the chaotic condition of nursing after the last war was speedily rectified by the then Minister of Health (now Lord Addison), by the introduction of a Nurses' Registration Bill, which became law in 1919. What confusion arose was entirely the fault of the College of Nursing, which promised nurses if they became members they would automatically be placed upon the State Register. This promise was not fulfilled, because its claim to control the profession of nursing as its governing body failed to materialise, and hundreds of nurses suffered professional damage from this unfulfilled pledge.

In Miss Isabel Macdonald's very able letter she supports Miss Hardy and claims that while so many registered nurses are away on National duty no steps should be taken which might react upon their professional security, and she emphasises the danger of the proposals of the Royal College of Nursing alike to the sick and the nurses.

Miss Macdonald emphasises the economic danger of setting the seal of the State's approval upon the Assistant Nurse by placing her on a Roll maintained by the General Nursing Council, the governing body of the Nursing Profession, and emphasises the fact that if partially qualified nurses are to receive, as suggested, a lower rate of remuneration than the Registered Nurses a menace of the worst form of economic competition will assail the Nursing Profession.

That such recommendations should be made by Lord Horder's Committee after the Registered Nurses have already paid close on a million of money to maintain safe standards of nursing and national health, is amazing and must be opposed.

THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME.

Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., S.R.N., Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, whose work has been so generously recognised, has now the opportunity of a lifetime. Her colleagues wish to know: Is she going to help save the rights and privileges of Registered Nurses and secure safe standards of nursing for the sick, or is she going to support the proposed legislation of Mr. Ernest Brown, the Minister of Health, which provides for our sharing privileges with the semi-trained Assistant Nurse?

As the Minister's reactionary policy is at last announced, it is the duty of the General Nursing Council to declare its decision without delay.

Surely, before any scheme is adopted which is a violation of contract with 100,000 Registered Nurses, they should be consulted.

THE WAR.

"Their Lives for Their Country."

In the House of Lords, on October 1st, Lord Lovat protested against an article published in the United States and written by Lord Strabolgi about the British Army, and asked if the Censor passed it for publication. The noble lord said he raised the matter because a considerable blow had been dealt to the faith of the United States in the competence and generalship of the British Armies in the field. He (Lord Lovat) had the honour to command representatives from 58 regiments of the British Army. They had no politics; theirs was the simple faith which made our forbears feared and respected on every foreign battlefield on which they fought. If any tub-thumping politicians came down to them and attacked their leaders' policy, there would be only one answer—the nearest horse-trough.

But if the prickings of this free lance were more irritating than dangerous, the sentiment which inspired them was not. It was the sentiment of an irresponsible critic making cheap capital out of the enforced silence of our soldiers. It was the mocking of men who had given their lives for their country. It was the ridiculing of His Majesty's Forces for lack of experience, when that experience, and arms and equipment also, were denied them by the parsimony of peace-time Governments who sought peace at any price. It was an inexcusable attempt to mix politics with soldiering. This was a free country. If Lord Strabolgi wished to slander the British Army he might do it here in safety, but to send his defamation across the Atlantic and have it circulated from end to end of the United States was an unworthy action that had brought upon him the contempt of his fellow-countrymen. (Cheers.)

Lord Strabolgi replied, and refused to withdraw anything he had written. To the question: "Had he been paid for it?" there was no reply.

The military nursing services will, we feel sure, wish to thank Lord Lovat for his loyalty to his companions in arms—thousands of whom have died that our country may live.

It would be well if politicians preserved in comfort by the men at the front, would cease attempting to direct the war. We shall never win it until they do.

THE GENTLE KNIGHT.

Why does he wear a helmet?
Why does he carry a sword?
He goes to fight for the things that are right,
By the side of his own Liege Lord.

Why has he died so sadly?
Down in that cavernous wood,
Was the battle lost, and is this the cost
Of the right for which he stood?

You must go a little further
And search through the wood again,
Where the body lies and the spirit dies
Of the evil which he has slain.

You did not stand by the angel
Who watched in the cold spring night,
Rise star by star to the Heaven afar
The soul of that gentle knight.

But you may with humble spirit
Stoop down for his shining sword,
And carry it back by the morn's white track,
To the feet of his own Liege Lord.

A. M. M.

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