

NO CONTROL WITHOUT CONSENT.

One lesson we have learned in the course of our years of public work for raising the status of women, and that is that leisured women organised in political associations very often fail to sympathise with their professional sisters.

Thus, on the de-grading of nursing standards through the Nurses Acts, 1943, women Members of Parliament with one exception failed to understand the economic significance of the registration by Parliament of semi-trained women, and solidly supported the inevitable depreciation of nursing as a profession.

Our attention has now been drawn to the issue of "The Interim Report of a Sub-Committee of the Women's Liberal Federation," of which Mrs. Corbett Ashby, LL.D., is chairman, which deals with a variety of women's questions.

On page 14, under the heading, "Nurses' Associations," it is recommended that "in order that the interest of nurses may be properly protected, the various existing organisations such as the Royal College of Nursing and the British College of Nurses, etc., should be amalgamated and form one corporate body. All sections of the Nursing Profession should be included (Student and Probationer nurses, Assistant nurses, as well as State Registered nurses), and there should be opportunity for obtaining the views of the young. There should be a widespread network of organisation all over the country." A variety of other recommendations are put forth.

We do not know who the ten ladies who form the sub-committee of the Women's Liberal Federation are, or if any of them have any practical experience of Nursing as a Profession, but we do know that they are prepared to organise the highly trained women who compose it, *without any consultation with them whatever!* No member of the Women's Liberal Federation has communicated with or consulted in any way the British College of Nurses, Ltd., concerning its constitution, principles or wishes.

That the College is an endowed and incorporated body of highly qualified Registered Nurses, the constitution of which is entirely self-governing, which has therefore a right to self-control, and which is strongly opposed to the constitution of the Royal College of Nursing—composed as it is and largely controlled by the nurses' employers and representatives, and is responsible for de-grading nurses' standards of efficiency so hardly won, by helping to inaugurate the legal registration of semi-trained women, and is thus opposed to the policy of self-determination which is our basic principle—is apparently of no account to the Women's Liberal Federation.

We have therefore sent each member of the sub-committee responsible for denying to us the basic rights of enfranchised British subjects, a copy of the pamphlet "A Demand for Justice for the State Registered Nurse," issued by the British College of Nurses, Ltd., feeling sure when they have studied it they will sympathise with our determination to cling tenaciously to the right of self-government in accordance with our conscientious convictions. Already at a meeting of Liberal women where our professional expert views were put forward, a resolution warmly supporting them was unanimously adopted.

C'EST LE PREMIER PAS QUI COÛTE.

My lads, ye see these loons on yon hill there; weel, if ye dinna kill them, they'll kill you.—SIR ANDREW AGNEW, at the battle of Dettingen.

THE MIDWIFE.

We regret being unable to deal with the valuable work of the midwife in this issue, but hope to devote considerable space to her national work in the New Year. In the meanwhile, congratulations that so much of the health and happiness of our people depends on her skill.

APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Essex County Hospital, Colchester.—Miss S. M. Edwards, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at Guy's Hospital, London, and has been Ward Sister at the Alexandra Hip Hospital, Swanley, Kent; Theatre Sister at the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, Ipswich; Private Nurse, Victoria, Vancouver Island (B.C.), Superintendent at the Robsart Clinic, Saskatchewan, Canada; Night Charge of West Kent Hospital Maternity Block, Maidstone; and Sister-Housekeeper at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester. Miss Edwards holds the Housekeeping Certificate of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.

SISTER TUTOR.

Woodlands Hospital, Norwich.—Miss Bertha Thornhill, S.R.N., has been appointed Sister Tutor. She was trained at the New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, and has been Assistant Matron-Tutor, at the Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich; Matron at the Isolation Hospital, Colchester; Tutor Sister at the County Hospital, Dewsbury; Tutor-Sister at the Princess Louise Hospital, Kensington; Matron of Convalescent Homes (Military) of the British Red Cross Society; and Assistant Matron at the County Hospital, Huntingdon.

SISTER TUTOR AND HOME SISTER.

Kendray Isolation Hospital, Barnsley.—Miss Agnes Steedman, S.R.N., has been appointed Sister Tutor and Home Sister. She was trained in General Nursing and Midwifery at the Royal Halifax Infirmary, and in Fever and Tuberculosis Nursing at the Westhulme Hospital, Oldham; and took the Health Visitor's Course, one year, at Bradford. Miss Steedman has been Staff Midwife at the Royal Halifax Infirmary; Staff Midwife at the Municipal Maternity Home, Wakefield; Health Visitor and School Nurse, Brighouse Corporation; and Health Visitor and School Nurse, Barnsley.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

BLOOD IS OF THE PARENT STREAM.

All the Australian Nurses we have met during the war are women of sense and sensibility and ardently British, whose blood is evidently of the Parent Stream. We were not surprised, therefore, to receive recently a most kind letter from Miss May Ashton, M.B.C.N., of Mount Lawley, W.A., from which we quote as follows:—

"Our thoughts are with you all," she writes, "especially when we read about Britain being bombed and lives lost and how wonderful you are standing up to it all and your rationing of food. How fortunate we are in Australia—a great abundance; we only wish you could share more of it. However, we are to have more food rationed here so that more can be sent to Britain; but even then it will not be as drastic as with you.

"Our tea allowance is 2 oz. a week; sugar 1 lb.; extra allowance for jam making, 6 lb. each.

"We expect butter, eggs, milk and cheese to be the next articles rationed. So many eggs are being dried now, so trust you are receiving some of the powder, which is excellent. Civilians here are not allowed to buy it, as all is needed for the military and our allies. Have just ordered to be sent to you a 2-lb. fruit cake, 1 lb. raisins, 1 lb. sultanas, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. currants. Sorry the parcel is not larger. Trust the fruit will make the scones a bit sweeter, as I understand your egg ration is exceedingly small, so cake making is out of the question, no doubt."

"The compulsory registration of all nurses, whether married or single, up to 60 years of age, whether working or not, has been completed. Staff has been very limited; also the domestic side is being investigated. The Military,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)