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EDITORIAL.

A DEMAND FOR JUSTICE FOR THE STATE REGISTERED NURSE.

For distributing the Pamphlet under the above title in hope of awakening the conscience not only of the public but also of State Registered Nurses themselves, the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., has received thanks and appreciation; but it remains for our great nurse historian, Miss Lavinia L. Dock, R.N., of the United States of America, to sound a clarion note, in the following letter, which will, we feel sure, arouse keen interest in this amazing controversy, the practical enslavement of the Nursing Profession in England through the Nurses' Act, 1943, promoted and about to be enforced by the Right Hon. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health.

LETTER FROM MISS LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

April 14th, 1943.

My dear Comrades and Friends,

Your pamphlet has stirred not sympathy alone, but also amazement, indignation and alarm in my understanding and my soul.

This is Nazism of a flagrant type. It is a return to economic slavery; it is a denial of progressive education; it is the forbidding of self-government to a professional and most useful group; it is the degradation of the worker.

Of what avail is it to conquer Hitler, if his methods and policies are to be embedded in our national life?

I venture to assert that, if the books of Goering and Ley were opened, the precise formulas for just such rules and regulations would be found in them.

Every feminist group of women should come forward to defeat these dastardly and cowardly rulings, brought forward when women are absorbed in labours for winning the war. Every fair-minded man should see this dangerous threat to civil liberty and the right of every individual to full self-development for social service. The "World of the Common Man" must include women.

I send you a small gift as one bullet for your war of freedom.

Ever and ever with you,

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

P.S.—To the Censor.

Please pass this; it is the true patriotism.

The British College of Nurses, Ltd., composed of State Registered Nurses at home and in our great Dominions, has unhesitatingly flung down the gauntlet in opposition to the policy of government without representation, upon which the Nurses Act, 1943, is based, and through which this autocratic and ignorant Minister (so far as the profession of Nursing is concerned)

is stamping his autocratic will, having deprived the Registered Nurses in this country of power and privileges granted to them in the Nurses' Registration Act of 1919, *now a dead letter, without their knowledge or consent!*

To clinch this demand to exercise absolute control over the lives of 100,000 professional women without their consent—their property has been appropriated for the purpose, and their cash may be squandered at will in protecting untrained Assistant Nurses by Statutory registration, and thus placing them in economic competition with the highly qualified Registered Nurse.

We venture to express the opinion that no more insolent demand has ever been made by any Minister of the Crown, or agreed to by the King's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in any Parliament assembled within memory.

We are out to compel the Government to restore to the Registered Nurses of Great Britain the rights and privileges possessed by them to date.

With every word of Miss Lavinia L. Dock's protest we are warmly in sympathy. We invite those who will have the privilege of reading it, to bring it to the notice of the public far and wide, and to demand that the "world of the Common Man must include women," and "that every feminist group of women should come forward to defeat these dastardly and cowardly rulings."

In this particular, women Members of Parliament are specially responsible. It is to be hoped they will realise their duty not only to the Registered Nurses but to the sick whom they are qualified to serve.

PORTIA APPEARS.

As we go to Press the Nurses (Scotland) Bill has been introduced into Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr. T. Johnson, and will no doubt be enforced at an early date. The proposed legislation is a little less obnoxious than that thrust upon English Nurses without their knowledge or consent, but the occasion of its Second Reading is memorable owing to the irrefutable speech, practically in opposition, of Mrs. Hardie, M.P. (Glasgow, Springburn) in which she exposed the fallacies of male arguments advanced, so far as nursing legislation is concerned. Mrs. Hardie as a political economist is naturally opposed to "diluting the industry" of nursing without the assent of the people within it. Every Registered Nurse will realise, we hope, that in Mrs. Hardie they have a forceful advocate for the maintenance of their demand for efficient and safe standards of nursing education and practice, for those attending the sick with State guarantee.

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