

penses have been borne by the nurses themselves. All opposition had been broken down, and if it had not been for the war, the Bill promoted by the Central Committee for State Registration would probably have been on the Statute Book by this time. The progress, however, has been much slower in our country than in others, where it has spread rapidly, with the result, as we know, that it almost encircles the world. In all but two of the United States of America, many of our Colonies, and other countries, Acts are in force. We rejoice with them, and they sympathise with us in our long patient wait. Victory for us was in sight when a bolt fell from the blue! The College of Nursing Co., Ltd., came into being and took the field in opposition.

Without any reference to the opinions or wishes of the organised bodies, it started on its strange career and ordered itself on the lines of archaic autocracy! Let there be no misunderstanding my sisters, we have long desired to have a college of nursing, but we want it to be a professional body. This foreign body is a lay corporation, a limited liability Co. (without share guarantee), the signatories of which are all laymen; and these laymen have appointed the first council and the consultative board. Subjugation of the nursing profession, and not its freedom is the thing aimed at.

This parody of a nursing college has drafted a Bill for State Registration, and, consistent with its autocracy, it has again excluded from both the provisional and permanent councils, all representation of the organised bodies of trained nurses and other vital principles which are embodied in the Bill drafted by the Central Committee for State Registration. In a word, the iconoclasts desire to pull down the fine educational structure which has been built up laboriously by the registrationists, and set up in its place a destructive imitation. This College of Nursing Co., Ltd., presumes to liken itself to the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons (in England, Scotland, and Ireland). As a matter of fact, it is in no way comparable. It is scarcely necessary to remind the reader of this journal that a college, being an educational body, should not concern itself with registration and discipline. A General Nursing Council, to be set up under a Registration Act,

would be the authorised body for registration and discipline. Our humiliations do not end here, however, but rather begin! Under the auspices of the College of Nursing Co., Ltd., the British Women's Hospital Committee—which consists of members of a section of the Actresses' Franchise League and others, has promoted a charity scheme for nurses, falsely called "The Nation's Fund for Nurses," and this is blatantly paraded by pictorial and other advertisements all over London. In the meantime self-respecting nurses are blushing with shame and hot with anger. Our opinion is, that at this awful crisis in the life of the nation, all surplus money should be spent for the benefit of our heroic sailors and soldiers, and the starving and suffering women and children in the countries overrun by the barbarous foe. If the State did its duty and paid an adequate salary to our military nurses, instead of mere pocket money as at present, there would be no need to insult them by offering them charity. As voters, we now demand that schemes for reconstruction shall include greatly increased salaries for all nurses. The mischief and danger of this college of Nursing Co., Ltd., can be seen by any intelligent reader at a glance. It unjustifiably assumes a monopoly of control over the entire nursing profession desiring to govern it without consent. The one humorous bit about it is, that it calls itself "democratic." The subsidised press has boycotted the opinions of independent nurses upon this and other subjects that concern them closely, so we have to adopt new methods of protest, namely the sandwich boards in the open streets. We desire economic control of our own profession and we mean to fight for it till we get it. Our slogan is "Liberté, Fraternité, Égalité. When the mendicants come round to your doors asking for charitable doles for British nurses, as we hear they intend to do, you will know what we think about it; furthermore, you will foresee the danger of large funds amassed by, and administered by, society ladies and gentlemen on behalf of trained nurses. The great thing that must arise out of this war must be the deepening and broadening of the spirit of Alliance among nurses all over the world.

BEATRICE KENT,

Delegate of the National Council of