

Another item in the papers recalls our international meetings. Coucy-le-Chateau, one of the most enchanting spots in France, has been destroyed. There, after the convention was over, three semi-invalided, wearied delegates were entertained so hospitably and delightfully by Edmond Kelly and his sweet Canadian wife, who was a trained nurse, that I am sure none can ever forget it. One of the three was Sister Agnes Karll.

We had hoped that this spring might see the arrangements begun for an international council meeting to be held in the United States as soon as the war is over. But now, apparently, the opportunity is as dubious as ever.

REVOLUTION IN OUR RANKS.

Speaking of revolutionaries, one must always be thankful for the spirit of the Irish nurses in their public and professional affairs. In the contest going on in Great Britain over the constitution of the proposed College of Nursing, the Irish nurses have spoken out as a united body, as their wont is in important crises, and have issued a series of questions, most searching and keen they are too, and have declared their objections and principles in a most splendid way, which is an example to every national association in the nursing profession.

As well as can be made out on this side, this new scheme, *so far*, seems to be mainly another attempt to tie up the whole nursing profession of England in the grip of the employers and hospital governors. If it evolves differently it will be because of the determined resistance of the clear-sighted ones, who are led—need we say?—by those faithful watchers and workers, those untiring dynamos of human energy, Mrs. Fenwick and Miss Breay."

THY BURDEN.

The Gazette of the 3rd London General Hospital at Wandsworth has no rival as a pictorial and witty war hospital journal. This month, as ever, it is full of good things. It can be grave as well as gay, as the following verses testify:—

THY BURDEN.

To every one on Earth
 God gives a burden to be carried down
 The road that lies between the Cross and Crown.
 No lot is wholly free;
 He giveth one to thee.

Thy Burden is God's gift,
 And it will make the bearer calm and strong;
 Yet, lest it press too heavily and long,
 He says, "Cast it on Me,"
 And it shall easy be.

PTE. V. C. WELLINGTON.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD., OPPOSES PETITION TO PRIME MINISTER.

ATTACK ON THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., has issued a four-paged Memorandum signed by Miss M. S. Rundle, the Secretary, to the Nurse Members advising them in very black and displayed type **NOT TO SIGN** the Petition to the Prime Minister, promoted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which appeals for the Direct Representation of Trained Nurses in England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, on the Provisional Governing Body which may be authorised, in a Nurses Registration Act, to frame the Rules and Regulations to which the Registered Nurses will have to conform. A simple fundamental issue in all good democratic government; a fundamental principle, however, against which the Council of the College is fighting by every means in its power, and which its refusal to concede caused the severance of negotiations between it and the Central Committee and its constituent societies of self-governing Nurses.

Let there be no further delusion upon the part of State Registrationists on this vital question. Our Petition claims the right of government by consent, and the College Council, in the unreasoning fear of all autocrats of liberty for the rank and file, has practically forbidden its Nurse members to Petition the Prime Minister of this country concerning their own affairs. Let us hope that this latest evidence of the intolerance of the employers who form the College Council, and of their obsequious nominees and officials, will inspire State Registrationists with such a fervour of indignation that the number of signatories to the Petition will increase with leaps and bounds, so that it cannot fail to carry conviction to the Prime Minister and the Government when presented.

We fear we can no longer hide from ourselves the fact that the College of Nursing Council is composed of men and women of very reactionary and tyrannical tendencies, whose policy of suppression of human and professional rights is a very serious danger to the evolution of the whole Nursing Profession in this country. This latest unreasoning act of despotism is proof positive of this conviction, and will be publicly execrated at the earliest possible opportunity.

One can but pity any Nurse who subjects herself to such humiliation, but as each nurse member of the College of Nursing has signed an Agreement granting the Council the power to remove her name from the Register "as the Council may in its discretion think proper," without power of appeal, she must obey the "advice" proffered to her by her masters "Not to Sign the Petition" or submit to the penalties they may think fit to inflict in punishment of her contumacy!

Could any Nurse be placed in a more untenable and humiliating position?

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