

hospitals. The wards are bright and cheerful, and look almost luxurious in comparison with the rest of the building. Pictures from the illustrated papers adorn the walls, and plants and flowers (not very many, however) are arranged to the best advantage on a table in the middle of each one. The nurse said that she wished more people who had gardens and greenhouses would remember prison infirmaries, as they came off rather badly, as a rule, in the matter of presents. No doubt there is a general feeling abroad that convicts are, perhaps, hardly just the people who should expect to have presents made to them, but be that how it may be, nowhere are gifts of flowers and plants more thoroughly appreciated than here."

The Duchess of Buccleuch and Queensberry, on the invitation of the Scottish Council, has agreed to become president for Scotland, of the Queen Victoria's Nurses Endowment Fund, and to appoint a committee for a general appeal in Scotland for the further endowment of the Edinburgh centre (29, Castle Terrace) of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses as a memorial of the late Queen. However, as at the moment the collections for the national memorial and various war funds are still before the public, it is considered desirable to postpone for a time any national organization in the counties of Scotland. In the meanwhile private efforts will be made to collect money from any interested in the scheme, and contributions, however small, will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the Duchess of Buccleuch, Queen Victoria's Nurses Endowment Fund, Montagu House, Whitehall, London, S.W., and By Miss Guthrie Wright, 2, Lansdowne Crescent, Edinburgh, and Messrs. Forbes, Moncrieff and Douglas, C.A., 22, Hill Street, Edinburgh.

The present age is one of co-operation. We see it in all the great syndicates formed for carrying through commercial undertakings, in the trusts created to manage charitable schemes, in the trades unions formed by male industrial workers for the furtherance and protection of their interests. There can be no question that in the future co-operation will be an increasing, as it will be a necessary force, if any section of the community is to accomplish effective work. The day of the individual is quickly passing away, and co-operation, combination, organization, are now the watchwords of the greatest thinkers. There can be no question that the working man to-day is in an infinitely better position educationally, socially, and financially than his predecessor of half a century ago, and that this position has been attained by his own

efforts, by his recognition of the truth that individually he can do little or nothing to improve his conditions of life, but collectively he is a force which cannot be ignored.

Women are slower to grasp this lesson of co-operation than men, but at the present time it is an imperative one, and must be learnt at all costs. That class of women workers with which this journal is concerned—namely, trained nurses, must learn it if they are to raise their calling to the level of a profession, with its privileges and status. One reason for this lack of co-operation amongst women is their timorousness. They cannot expect to accomplish powerful and effective organization without opposition; the interests which such organization would affect prejudicially are too strong to be submerged without a protest. But on the first hint of opposition, nurses, who have joined together to effect some professional object, which all agree is desirable of attainment, loosen the bands which unite them, and as individuals fall an easy prey to their ill-wishers, who smile to see their malevolent schemes furthered by the very persons whose real interests lie in the direction of increasingly strong combination, and resistance to the uttermost.

Are we, as a profession, beginning to learn the necessity of self help, co-operation, loyalty to ourselves, and to one another, as the basis of self-respecting organization? We would fain hope so. One thing is certain; if we do not help ourselves no one else can do so, and we shall have to drink to the dregs the cup of humiliation, a bitter but salutary medicine, if it teaches us the lesson which lies open before us. A house divided against itself is an unworthy spectacle in the eyes of the world, and our want of unity is becoming a bye-word amongst other women-workers. It is time we searched well for the cause, and took measures to remedy it.

The sad news has been received from West Africa of the death of the Matron of the hospital at Cape Coast Castle. Particulars of her illness have not yet been received, but there is little doubt that it was malaria, the scourge of this "white man's grave."

This is the second death which has taken place amongst the small number of nurses working on the West Coast of Africa this year. In January last Miss M. Sinclair of the Government Civil Staff, N. Nigeria, died at sea on her return home from that colony.

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