

nursing service. It will probably consist of a Lady Superintendent, a Matron, and twenty-five nurses.

Writing to the journal on the subject of nurses' hours, and the inability of hospitals to increase their nursing staffs because their finances would not stand a great strain, a "trained nurse" says:—"The fact that the hospitals are insufficiently supported is not an adequate reason why one section of the community should be oppressed to benefit another section. There is more sweating done in the name of charity than people have any idea of. An inspection of the salaries paid to employees in charitable institutions, in conjunction with the hours of duty, would very soon convince any inquiring person of this fact.

"My experience of nurses is that they are, as regards their work, full of readiness to sacrifice themselves for their patients in any case of necessity, often in cases where no real necessity exists, but this does not give the community any right to sacrifice them to its poor. Any unnecessary self-sacrifice is wasted energy, quite as much so as is the digging of a hole for the purpose of filling it up again.

"Nurses, as a class, will never use their vote for their own aggrandisement—they are a much nobler-spirited class of women than that—but they should understand that if their strength is worn out, and their lives shortened needlessly, they have less service to give to humanity, and on this higher ground they should demand better food than is often supplied, and more reasonable hours of duty. They have, as your correspondent points out, but little time to give to politics, but they have the Federal vote now, and they are to have the State vote by-and-by, and it is their duty as citizens of the Commonwealth now, and will later on be their duty as citizens of the State, to use their votes for the benefit of the community. Nurses have special opportunities of observing some of our worst social evils and their results. Which of us has not had constant cause to lament the results of intemperance, of poverty, of evil living, of the adulteration of food, of the way the poor are housed, and of the want of all sanitary education, and who are there among us who have had the capacity to go through their training and pass their examinations who have not also the capacity to understand some of the causes of these things and use their votes intelligently for their amelioration?"

The writer of this letter apologises for its length on the ground of her "very strong feeling" on the subject. What a pleasure it is to note the existence of very strong feeling and a sense of the obligations of citizenship in a nurse! When nurses in other countries have the vote, they too, we believe, will rise to their responsibilities, both professional and public.

We congratulate the nurses of Victoria on their journal, and, as we know something of the onerous nature of an editor's duties, we offer our congratulations to the editor of *Una* on its bright and interesting contents.

Wedding Bells.

The engagement is announced of Mr. A. F. Churchill, of Ceylon, to Miss Elinor E. Bell, elder daughter of the late Mr. Jas. Alexander Bell. Miss Bell was trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and is a member of its Nurses' League. She at present holds the position of Superintendent of Nurses in the Paying Wards of the General Hospital, Colombo.

Sister Rawson, who took charge of the Victorian nursing contingent in South Africa, and has been awarded the Royal Red Cross, is now married to Mr. J. O'Farrell, of Melbourne, and living in Kalgoorlie.

The Passing Bell.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Dr. Norton Manning, ex-President of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association. Dr. Springthorpe, as President of the Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, says of him:—"Dr. Manning was a man of singular serenity and nobility of character, who served his day and generation with a zeal, ability, and sincerity that have carried his name far beyond the limits of the Commonwealth. In his own department, that of Lunacy, he was for many years Inspector-General, and the recognised Australian authority. Outside it, he was medical adviser to the Government of New South Wales, and a leader in many diverse forms of medical, civic, and intellectual activity. Beyond all this, and hence specially regarded by us, he was the originator, the trusted counsellor, the life and soul of the movement that raised the nursing profession of New South Wales to its present enviable position. He played a similar prominent part in the extension of that movement to our own State, and in the establishment of reciprocal relations between the two sister Associations. Though prematurely laid aside, and lately worn down by a trying internal complaint, he was to the last the same lovable personality, the same high-principled worker, the same trusted adviser, and by his death the sister Association suffers a loss that is beyond expression. He leaves behind him the memory of a noble, well-spent life, and the inspiration of a great career. The V.T.N.A., which owes him not a little, would unite with the A.T.N.A., which owes him so much, in placing upon record its indebtedness, its appreciation, and its profound regret."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)