

The Value of the Vote.

The *Australasian Nurses' Journal* is to hand, and we are glad to learn from this admirable publication that Australian nurses are taking an interest in the larger issues of life.

At the Nurses' Réunion at Prince Alfred Hospital, on May 19th, Miss Rose Scott, President of the Women's Political Educational League, urged women to value their vote—to realise that franchise meant freedom, a voice in the national housekeeping, and the conditions under which both men and women laboured, and also a voice in the making and repealing of laws affecting women and children. That the vote was valuable, history only too plainly showed. Men valued it. Cecil Rhodes had said, "A vote is everything." Let not women then despise a power which could be used for the protection of women and children, and for the elevation of humanity in general. Our homes were only selfish centres unless we did some work outside for the homeless, the oppressed, and those whose sorrows often rendered them voiceless. Happy women, with homes and comfort, should reach out to help their wretched and often degraded sisters. The children needed our especial care; every child's natural birthright was a father's and mother's love and the environment of home. The representation of a vote was a far greater thing than merely dropping a paper in a ballot box. If women organised themselves into bands they had ten times more power with regard to bills before Parliament and petitions to alter laws and redress wrongs than any isolated woman could ever have. They would have power with the local member; power, combined with other organisations, to influence Governments and Parliaments. The interests of women had been too long neglected. In New South Wales married mothers did not even own their own children. The law had been amended in England.

A husband could here leave every penny of money away from his wife if he died, although he would be bound to support her if living. Equal pay for equal work was also imperative. Why should women be paid less than men for exactly the same work? More police matrons were needed and more women inspectors. The women who collected money for hospitals should see that women were represented upon hospital boards. Women here could if they organised become a moral force in the land, and their vigour and attainments would react upon other States than their own, and also upon the betterment of the world. To be apathetic was to injure others. The motherhood of woman should be a growing force to protect and care for all.

Would that we could all take to heart the gravity of the sin of apathy, which is often but another name for laziness.

Nursing Echoes.

****** All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Mrs. Greenwood contributes to last week's *Figaro* and *Irish Gentlewoman* an admirable article on the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. By drawing attention to this movement in the press its friends can do much to help it forward. The interests of the public and of nurses are identical. Nurses ask that after they have attained to a minimum standard of education, defined by a professional authority, they may be distinguished from those who have not attained it by means of registration. The public asks that in time of critical illness it shall be able definitely to ascertain whether the nurses it employs possess the knowledge which constitutes them safe attendants on the sick. When once a Register of Trained Nurses is published under the authority of the State it will be safe to assume that those whose names do not appear in it have not attained to the requisite standard.

By the courtesy of the Secretary of the Admiralty, we are able to give some further details concerning the circumstances under which Mrs. (not Miss) Chadwick defended Captain Mundy from the fury of a mob, and so saved his life. They are as follows:—

"Captain Godfrey Mundy, of H.M.S. *Isis*, on leaving the British Hospital at Puerto de La Luz, Las Palmas, in order to quell a disturbance which had arisen between natives and some seamen of the *Isis*, was attacked by the mob, and struck on the head with a stone, which rendered him insensible. While in this state one of the ringleaders was proceeding to offer further violence to Captain Mundy, which there is little doubt would have been fatal, when one of the hospital nurses (Mrs. Chadwick, the widow of a warrant officer in the British Army) rushed out of the hospital, boldly faced the mob, and by her energetic denunciation cowed them for the time being, and enabled some bluejackets who had followed her to bring Captain Mundy into the hospital. Nurse Chadwick behaved with the greatest coolness and courage, facing the mob, in spite of a shower of stones, at considerable personal risk.

"Captain Mundy sustained a fracture of the outer table of the skull, but is now fully recovered from his injuries.

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