

be served ; they are living in their own, and preserve and cherish it as their own."

As proof of such a maxim, we, my honoured Sisters, have the precious satisfaction that yesterday in the general assembly of distinguished persons, during the negotiations about the new building, I was able to say: We pay our rent, the management costs nothing, and the capital, indeed, pays interest.

Yes, together with the work and the self-sacrificing activity of the Committee, it is, my dear fellow-workers, our work which has brought that to pass, under God's gracious protection and blessing. Because we have all desired to place the well-being of the Home far above our own well-being, because we have wished to work according to the will of God in the serious and difficult profession of nursing far more than what a money-paid service would render, because of all this we have so conspicuous a share in what has been able to be achieved during ten years in the Home.

It must be a delightful reflection to you, my dear ones, to look back upon your ten and twenty years' activity from this point of view.

And this blissful feeling, my young Sisters, I should like to impress upon your hearts as well as I know how, upon you who are standing at the entrance of your life's course. We have trained you with this thought in our minds. This spirit of our Home has surrounded you in your time of probation ; now prove that you also wish to be *real* Sisters, that your whole being sends up a flame of noble enthusiasm, to serve God in His holy work, to be allowed to be His blessed fellow-workers with those most necessary qualifications for the work—humility, and that means a deep, living consciousness of your own insufficiency ; obedience, and that means a deep inner consciousness of the necessity of submitting your own will to the common will in the laws of the community—and, above all, with the greatest of all, love with loyalty.

For the last time of so many, many times I speak to you to-day, before you go forth to-morrow, away from that guiding, protecting, interceding presence of mine, away into the world without, in the full seriousness of your profession. You have all spoken of gratitude with a full heart ; each one of you knows how alone she can show that gratitude, by being not only a hearer, but a doer of the Word, and also remaining true in absence to the spirit of the Motherhouse, encircled by the firm band of true fellowship. This band has been woven of the firm, serious, vigorous threads of community of work, of the strong and even ones of unity of life ; silken threads are in it, delicate as a breath, of the hidden life of the soul, and, again, rough and coarse ones of training and discipline ; often with black and sad ones be mingled there, such as life must bring, but specially will there be many bright, beautiful, red ones—of our beloved Red Cross. But the chain-

threads of the band will be of noble gold, which will sparkle everywhere through all the cross-threads, and brighten them and make them glitter ; of pure gold, which is genuine, strong, and firm, but which also is soft and pliable, which always, even in strife and death, withstands decomposition, bright and untarnished—the pure gold of readiness in the service of God.

An Anti-Registration Meeting at the London Hospital.

We are informed that a meeting of staff nurses of the London Hospital was recently called together to listen to the views of the Matron, Miss Lückes, on State Registration of Trained Nurses, of which she strongly disapproved. Miss Lückes has consistently opposed the organisation of nursing into a legally constituted profession, but it would be interesting to know what arguments could be advanced in these days against such organisation which would carry any weight with intelligent women. We know no nursing staff which would benefit more directly by State Registration than that at the London Hospital.

It would at once secure to the probationers a three years' systematic training in the wards of the hospital, under the skilled tuition of Sisters who had themselves passed through this most necessary term of training. Nurses would no longer be compelled to spend their third year in private nursing, greatly to the financial benefit of the hospital, and examination and certification by a Central Examining Board would supersede the present undesirable system of qualifying the nurses' certificates by the Matron which is still in vogue at the London Hospital.

We are well aware that there are many members of the nursing staff at the London who are in favour of a three years' training in the wards, of adopting a definite standard of nursing education, of examination by a Central Board, and of Registration by State Authority, thus giving to the public a guarantee of efficiency and to trained nurses that legal status which is their due, and we have no doubt that these nurses would publicly support the Registration movement if their convictions were not so obnoxious to the powers that be.

The time, however, is past for coercion of hospital nurses by their official superiors in reference to this important professional matter.

As we go to press the result is announced of an action brought by Mrs. Hall, of Oldham, against the Oldham Nursing Association, for compensation for injuries sustained from a burn caused by a hot water bottle, while two nurses of the Association were in attendance on the patient. The plaintiff was awarded £300 damages. We consider the case so important that we shall deal with it at length in our next issue.

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