

recorded one by one make the majorities which order for good or ill the local or Imperial affairs.

How does all this concern us as nurses? you ask.

We have no Parliamentary votes, and only a very small number of us have any other votes. But it does concern each one of us, because we have to obey or suffer the penalties of the laws and orders made by these majorities. Therefore we are, or should be, very much interested.

It was not, however, so much the votes of citizenship which I had in my mind (I suppose it's a touch of voting fever I've caught), but do we nurses realise the responsibilities of the few votes we do possess?

Very many of us belong to some Society, League, or Association, and members of most of these have votes. It is true that they have not the wide-reaching effects those others have, but still they may have a much greater consequence for us than we ever realise. So many nurses seem willing, for the sake of saving themselves a little trouble, to abstain from voting, or vote for someone they happen to know and like, without ever trying to find out if that person has really done anything for them or their profession. Some are captured by the glamour of a name or of an idea, without any knowledge of what it may mean. Others are influenced by fears (often imaginary) of what their employers may think, and so sacrifice principles—if they have any—for bread and butter, never thinking that each retreat makes resistance doubly hard.

Is it right to permit any employer to interfere in our private affairs? Certainly not! although it is often done, and we, like worms, permit it. Yet who would resent it more than those people who interfere with others?

What, then, are we to do with our votes?

How best discharge the responsibility which we voluntarily undertake when we join a society?

Well, is it not the very least we can do to prepare ourselves for the meetings by reading up all we can upon the subject to be discussed? Let us give a little thought to the subject, listen with an unprejudiced mind to any discussion, fearlessly give our opinions when they are formed, and, if necessary, our reasons for forming them.

Then, no matter what the issue may be, we shall be able to say truthfully and with a clear conscience that we voted as we thought best, not according to our personal likes or dislikes, but for the greatest good of the greatest number. Of all things to be avoided, personalities are the greatest. I don't quite mean by that we are not to be rude to our neighbours, for we are much too polite for that. But we should never take to ourselves things said during debate or discussion as being meant expressly for us.

So much unnecessary trouble and annoyance could thus be avoided, and, if we investigate such things, the result is, generally, the speaker was thinking

of quite other causes. It is this hyper-sensitiveness which so often hampers and sometimes prevents really good work being done. Therefore, let us all try to take a real intelligent interest in all subjects connected with our Societies, Leagues, Associations, and, above all, our profession. Let us use our votes to secure the best for all. But, if we abstain from voting, don't let us grumble when things do not please us, because, if they are wrong, we are to blame for not having done our little best to help make them right.

MARY BURR.

International Nursing News.

Miss Adelaide Nutting, of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses, has consented to prepare a paper, "To Define a Curriculum of Education and a Minimum Standard Qualifying for Registration as a Trained Nurse," for the Nursing Conference at Berlin. The opinions of American nurses will thus be ably set forth, as Miss Sophia Palmer and Mrs. Dita H. Kinney are also to contribute papers, and, it goes without saying, they will be full of common sense and up-to-date.

The Victorian Trained Nurses' Association have affiliated with the National Council of Women of Victoria, and have appointed as delegates Miss Burleigh, of the Melbourne Hospital, and Miss Glover, the Hon. Secretary.

Preliminary Training.

The John Hopkins Training-School, having a six months' preparatory course, is now requiring an entrance fee of fifty dollars to cover the expenses of the preparatory work. A deposit of ten dollars to cover the cost of damage to hospital appliances while in training is also required at the time of enrolment.

The establishment of a six months' preliminary course for all applicants for admission to the training-school is one of the important steps taken during the year at Lakeside Hospital, at Cleveland, O. During the six months' probation the applicants are under the supervision of two paid instructresses, and receive both theoretical instruction by the tutors and practical instruction in the wards of the hospital under the care of the teachers before they are admitted to the school or are permitted to care for the sick. Previously, at this hospital, as well as in all others, the newly-admitted nurse entered at once on her duties without regard to experience. Two additions to the staff of lecturers were made during the past year to give instructions to the nurses in the training-school. Heretofore, instruction has been given by a committee composed of a number of the older practitioners of the city.

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