

works and causes that we believe to be right and just, both by helping others and having them help us.

If we think this, we have a ready and satisfactory reply to the criticism, "not representative." The people with whom we can work and who will work with us are representative for our purposes, and those are, in Great Britain, the Matrons' Council and the independants and the rapidly arising self-governed leagues and societies, and in Germany they are Sister Kaill and the members of the German Nurses' Association, who have broken away from the antiquated compulsion of Sisterhood and Red Cross ownership of nurses, and who are striving for the right of the nurse to own herself and her earnings—agitating for a more thorough and more uniform training for the pupil nurse, and who are petitioning the Government for legal status.

It must be frankly admitted that of the great London hospitals—nine in all, if I recollect rightly—only one, St. Bartholomew's, is willing to recognise us. Only Miss Isla Stewart, of all the London Matrons, is willing to affiliate with us. St. Thomas's Hospital, where Miss Nightingale established the first training-school, and which we might say was the mother of us all, stands aloof and regards us and our ways with cold disapproval. Miss Nightingale herself disapproves of State Registration, holding that nurses should remain in the control of their training-schools. In Germany, similarly, the great nursing institutions of Berlin and Hamburg will have nothing to do with us, and Kaiserswerth, our grandmother, so to speak, which we all revere, would simply not believe it possible that women emancipated from their hospital authorities could be good nurses.

All this is most regrettable, for in these historic hospitals are women whom we would be glad and proud to know. And, perhaps, they might accept us individually, but we could not get far with them, for they are not in sympathy with much that we are doing in our organisations.

The London Matrons, with the sole exception of Miss Isla Stewart, are opposed to State examination and Registration. We are working for it. The German Matrons consider it degrading for a nurse to work for money. She should appear to work gratuitously, and the money should go to the motherhouse, which will care for her in old age. That is to us impossible. So, it would appear, there are many circles where we may not enter, and these words, "not representative," become meaningless.

Two countries there are where nurses have progressed even farther in freedom than we, because all women have, and these are Australia and New Zealand. So far these nurses have not seemed to realise how much they could help the new movement in old countries by their example and by their encouragement, but it will certainly come to them before long. Meantime, let us do all we can to help reforms wherever we can, without bothering

ourselves as to whether anyone, ourselves included, is representative or not.

L. L. Dock.

Legal Matters.

A PLEA FOR STATE REGISTRATION.

A case which has aroused considerable interest is that in which two women have been in custody on a charge of stealing a diamond bracelet belonging to Mrs. Fitzwarden Cave, of Palmer Street, Westminster. The maid of this lady, named Alice Crisp, left her without the formality of giving notice, and, as a valuable bracelet was missed, information was given to the police which resulted in the arrest of the runaway servant. The girl strenuously protested her innocence, and later the bracelet was offered to a pawnbroker under circumstances which led to his communicating with the police. As the result a woman named Lalla Olssen was arrested. The interest of the case to nurses lies in the fact that Olssen, who ultimately admitted having stolen the bracelet from Mrs. Cave's bedroom, posed as a nurse at the London Hospital, and appeared in the dock in nursing uniform. Mrs. Cave, in her evidence, said she had met Olssen once or twice, and believed her statement that she was a nurse at the London Hospital. She invited her to spend a day with her, as Olssen told her it was her day off and she had nowhere to go. She took compassion on her, therefore, and gave her lunch and dinner. She remained at the flat the greater part of the day, but was only left alone for a few minutes. Presumably she then annexed the property of her benefactress.

Olssen, who is a native of Sweden, pleaded guilty, and asked to be dealt with. Detective Cook said she had been in England nearly three years and there had been nothing against her previously. Mrs. Cave did not press for punishment, and she was again remanded in order that the court missionary might communicate with the Swedish Consul on her behalf.

We are officially informed that nothing is known of this woman at the London Hospital. In reply to our request for information, addressed to the Secretary of the hospital, Mr. P. J. M. Rogers says:—"I cannot trace that there is any truth in the statement of the young woman Lalla Olssen that she was a nurse at the London Hospital, either in her own name or any other." The case proves once again that, so long as there is no authoritative Register of trained nurses, any woman can masquerade in a nursing uniform, and even wear it in the dock. When we have a system of State Registration it will be penal for anyone not on the Register to take or use the name or title of registered nurse. It will then serve no useful end to wear a nurse's uniform. We commend these facts to the attention of the London Hospital authorities.

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