

neither the grocer, the butcher, the milkman, nor the brewer will cheat them long; but of this impalpable substance, called air, so vital to their well-being, and of which Nature has provided such an illimitable and free supply, they know little or nothing, and cannot tell the good from the bad.

Morning comes. They rise with a feeling of lassitude, which either they do not notice, because it has become habitual, or else attribute to some cause connected with last night's supper, or what not, but never to the poisonous air they have been breathing. The husband rushes for the train (happy is it for him if he is late and has to run, for he will pant before he gets to the station, and be forced to gulp down good air in great draughts). There he clambers into a third-class carriage, into which he and his fellows are stowed like herrings, and in which he resumes the poisoning process. At his business things may be better, but the chances of this are not great. Is he an artisan, he is very probably forced to use artificial light, even in the daytime, and this time the flame will be close to his work, and therefore *actually lower than his nostrils*. Is he a clerk, his desk may be in some poky back office, or even in the basement, and the air not only polluted with the products of respiration, but also with the wares of his trade. At his eating- or coffee-house the same deoxygenised air is present for his consumption, and as soon as work is over he resumes his seat of the previous evening, probably glad enough to get into it again, for he is far less strong than he should be. Everywhere God's great gift of fresh air has been denied him, and who then can wonder at his ashen looks, at his physical debility. Such are the average conditions of life in this enlightened twentieth century; and such are the folk who are breeding and rearing the coming race.

(To be continued.)

### Please Distribute.

We recommend to our readers that they should not only read, but carefully study, the extraordinarily brilliant article written by Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, on State Registration which we publish in this issue. We ask them to bring it to the notice of fellow nurses, doctors, hospital managers and politicians; it is full of wisdom and good feeling and goes to the root of the whole question. The article, reprinted in pamphlet form, will be ready next week, price 2d., and we hope a large number will be ordered and distributed by those interested in the nursing question. This is one of the ways in which every nurse can help forward the great professional movement which is for her own individual benefit, as well as that of her profession and of the public. And the day is past when a nurse can sit down with folded hands and think that others should do all the work for her advancement. She must help herself.

### The Nurses' Protest to the City Financiers' Registration Scheme.

The large hall at 20, Hanover Square, London, W., was filled to its utmost capacity on Wednesday afternoon last by an audience of trained nurses; who had assembled on the invitation of the Matrons' Council and the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. "To enter the strongest possible protest against the License of the Board of Trade being granted to a Society which seeks to obtain absolute authority over Trained Nurses." They foregathered from all parts of the kingdom; the uniform of the nurses of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute was conspicuous, as were the badges of the Nurses' Co-operation and the Royal British Nurses' Association, while members of the Matrons' Council, the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, the League of St. John's House Nurses, the Chelsea Infirmary Nurses' League, the Leicester Infirmary Nurses, the Royal South Hants Nurses' League, and a large number of the members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses filled the room and overflowed into the passage.

The chair was taken by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, who, in opening the meeting, called upon Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to read the notice convening the meeting, and to report letters and telegrams which had been received.

Mrs. Fenwick said that letters, which were too numerous to read, had been received from all parts of the United Kingdom. She would like to mention specially one from Miss Peter, General Superintendent of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, who greatly regretted that a Council Meeting of the Institute at the same hour prevented her from being present at the Meeting of Protest, with the object of which she was in warm sympathy, and from Fraulein Agnes Karll, President of the German Nurses' Association, who wrote expressing her sympathy with the object of the meeting, as well as that of Miss Dock, Hon. Secretary International Council of Nurses.

Lady Helen then said: I am here to-day to take the place of the President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, Miss Louisa Stevenson, who for years has been struggling actively and strenuously to secure State Registration, and who, to the regret of all, is unable to be with us to-day owing to illness and family bereavement.

This meeting is convened to enter a formal expression of protest against the incorporation of a Society which seeks to obtain authority over trained nurses. There are professional reasons for strenuous opposition to the proposed scheme, which might fetter for all time the power of free action and professional development of trained nurses. As the

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