

pounds which are earned by trained nurses are being diverted for the upkeep of hospitals, nursing institutions, and district nurses all over the country—in our opinion a cruel injustice to a very worthy, very hard working, and by no means well paid profession of women.

“Figure to yourself,” as our French neighbours would say, what a hubbub would arise about the sacred rights of property if the incomes of hospital committee men, medical men, and male workers in charitable institutions were forcibly assessed for the maintenance of the institution.

The relative positions of charitable institutions and nurses are those of Capital and Labour, and under existing circumstances Capital, provided by public benevolence, has the power to drive a very hard bargain with unorganised nursing labour, and to dictate conditions of work and remuneration against which the unprotected paid staff are absolutely powerless. The bitter opposition of the managers of many of the older charities, especially those at the London Hospital, to the co-operation of trained nurses, is nothing more nor less than the employers struggle for supremacy, the discreditable history of which can be read in the nursing press for the past twenty years.

The medical managers of the Royal British Nurses' Association are fighting the same old hopeless fight. All they wish to attain by legislation is the control of the nurses.

The rightful claim of these working women is that they may control themselves. There is the whole matter in a nut-shell. And we are going to fight till we attain this just end—both for the protection of skilled nursing labour and the sick public at large.

At the Executive Committee of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses held last week, Mrs. Shuter was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy, caused by Mrs. Hayward's resignation of the position of Delegate of the League, on the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and has accepted office.

A Meeting of the Parliamentary Bills Committee was held at the Offices, 431, Oxford Street, on Monday, at which the future policy of the Society was considered. It was unanimously agreed to get to work on the Petition to the Prime Minister—praying him to make the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses a Government Measure next Session. This is work in which every member of the

Society can take an active part, as soon as the Petition is adopted by the Executive Committee.

As we go to press the Royal British Nurses' Association is holding its annual meeting, at which Miss Christina Forrest will propose a resolution (if not ruled out of order upon some quibble) condemning the Registration Bill drafted by the Hon. Officers, and by them thrust through the Special General Meeting. She will also protest against “the unjust conduct” of these Hon. Officers.

So far we have received no printed agenda of the meeting containing the resolutions, which, according to Bye Law XIII., should certainly have been printed and circulated amongst the members; but the genius of the R.B.N.A. officials for wriggling out of legal obligations has now been reduced to a fine art.

The Nurses' Missionary League.

The Annual Meeting of the Nurses' Missionary League, which was held at University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C., on Wednesday afternoon last, was a very interesting one. The League aims at uniting as volunteer members all nurses trained, or in training, who hope to become foreign missionaries.

After tea had been hospitably served to all present, some interesting addresses were given. That of Dr. Jays, recently returned from West Africa, must surely have gone straight to the hearts of all present, as he spoke of the supreme value of medical missions, and expressed his conviction as a medical man that the returns of the biggest practice were an inadequate reward for staying at home. No method of gaining Mahomedans to Christianity was so effective as that of medical missions. He spoke also of the need of nurses and how handicapped he had been in his work for lack of a nurse to help him. He gave some striking instances of native superstitions, and showed many interesting specimens of native workmanship, proving that they possess a high degree of skill.

The Rev. W. H. Titterton, who formerly worked in Russian Poland, and is now working in connection with the London Society for Promoting Christianity amongst the Jews at the East End of London, spoke of the great interest of the work, and claimed a first place for Missions to the Jews. “To the Jew first” he pointed out was the Biblical injunction.

Miss K. Miller, Secretary of the League, gave a short and interesting address on the principles, purpose, and progress of the League.

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