

## The Mothers' Union.

The Mothers' Union, the Founder and President of which is Mrs. Sumner, wife of the Bishop of Guildford, has a widespread influence for good not only in Great Britain but in many far-away corners of the Empire. So far nurses have known little of the Union, but a movement has lately been inaugurated in London to extend a knowledge of its work amongst them. Many nurses in the Dioceses of London, Southwark, and St. Albans have been communicated with, and at a drawing-room meeting for nurses held at Camelford House, by the permission of Lady Hillingdon, the Hon. Mrs. Hubbard explained the objects of the Union, and Miss Böge, Superintendent of the Queen's Nurses Home at Shoreditch testified to its value. Meetings have also been held at various hospitals and institutions, and by this means both nurses and midwives have been approached. The following open letter, which we have pleasure in publishing by request, has now been addressed by the President of the Union to trained nurses:—

DEAR NURSES,—Many workers in the Mothers' Union agree with me in wishing to enlist your help in carrying out the objects of our Society.

You will see how invaluable your co-operation would be to us if you will kindly read through our three central objects, which are as follows:—

1. To uphold the sanctity of marriage.
2. To awaken in mothers of all classes a sense of their great responsibility in the training of their boys and girls (the future fathers and mothers of our Empire).
3. To organise in every place a band of Mothers who will unite in prayer, and seek by their own example to lead their families in purity and holiness of life.

You doubtless realise the exceeding importance of keeping our English homes fit training places for a great and Christian Nation. All of you who have had the happiness of a home life with a loving and tender mother, will realise also the immeasurable power of a mother's influence and example over the characters of the children whom God has given to her.

You will therefore agree as to the importance of our efforts to "raise the standard of home life throughout the Empire," and you will perhaps allow me to point out the immense value of having your sympathy with our work.

You are with mothers at a time when their hearts are filled with gratitude to you for skilful and devoted attention, and when they are rendered by their weakness peculiarly impressionable.

These facts give you special opportunity for quietly and imperceptibly arousing in them a deep sense of their sacred and tremendous responsibilities as mothers.

If they see their baby treated as a priceless gift sent from God Himself, even the careless irresponsible mothers, in whom maternal instinct is least apparent, will begin to feel the importance of their duties.

If they see the value set by you on orderly, tender, loving treatment of their little ones, they will be prepared to carry on a training in habits which, under fostering love, will form noble characters. They will be helped to resist the temptation to turn from trouble entailed by their care, they will not wish to ignore the natural claims made upon them by their helpless little ones, and to shift their duties and responsibilities on to others.

They will grasp in its full meaning the sacred importance of their position as mothers, and, by your prayers and influence, they may be imbued with a sense of the supreme duty of bringing up their children to be Christ's faithful soldiers and servants until their life's end.

If you will join our Society as Members or Associates of the Mothers' Union, we shall warmly welcome you into our ranks and rejoice that you are united with us in prayer and sympathy, and that you are accepting opportunities offered to you by God for raising the home life of our Empire.

Believe me,

Your sincere friend,

M. E. SUMNER,

President of the Mothers' Union.

The work has the hearty sympathy of many Superintendents of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute who have expressed their willingness to distribute Mothers' Union literature.

It has now been decided to extend the effort, and to approach the Matrons of the general hospitals, in order, if possible, to obtain a hearing for the Mothers' Union among their nurses; the object being, not so much to enrol the nurses themselves as associates or members, as to acquaint them with its work in order that they may be able to suggest the help this Union may be to those who are willing to utilise the hours of sickness in fitting themselves for a fuller realisation of the duties and responsibilities of their home life.

All further particulars as to this effort, the hospitals approached, the branches to which nurses are affiliated, and financial details, can be obtained from the Correspondent for Nurses, Mrs. Russell, S. Stephen's Vicarage, Battersea Park, S.W., who will also supply, gratis, papers about the work and printed forms on which nurses may send in the names of any whose interest has been aroused to the Central Secretary, who will see that they are visited.

All efforts for the uplifting of the people must have the warm interest of nurses, and we do not doubt that many will sympathise with the work of a society which strives to awaken or increase the sense of their high vocation in the mothers of the Empire.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)