

but that although on various occasions official information on the progress of the movement has been sent to the Treasury, it has not apparently reached the Prime Minister.

Our duty is plain. The Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses must now take active measures to instruct the Prime Minister on the urgent need there is for the protection of the sick in the United Kingdom, for which trained nurses have worked, paid, and pleaded for a quarter of a century. An excellent article from the logical pen of Miss M. Breay appeared in the *Standard* on Friday, 28th ult., pointing out how, in spite of Mrs. Humphry Ward's assertion to the contrary, legislation demanded by voteless women is ignored.

## NURSES AND THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

### A FEW ITEMS.

The Insurance Act comes into force on the 15th of July.

Insurable persons have till the 15th of October next to choose the society in which to insure, so no need to rush into a society without consideration.

As small societies, which can be self-managed and each individual considered, are often the most successful, there is no need for trained nurses to join large societies, which they cannot possibly control, and where they will be treated in the lump with untrained persons, whose special needs are not identical with their own.

Co-operation nurses must at all costs avoid irritating private patients by presenting cards for stamping weekly, otherwise their society will suffer loss of patronage, and work will be given to hospitals and institutions who employ nurses on a small salary, and who have to insure the staff and stamp the cards.

The Registered Nurses' Society Committee hopes to adopt a system to help the nurses on the staff to avoid appealing to patients for contributions as employers. No one appears to know who is the employer of co-operative private nurses not associated or organized for profit. The following letter has been received from the Commissioners (England) by the Secretary of the Registered Nurses' Society:—

MADAM,—I am directed by the National Health Insurance Commission (England) to inform you that they have had under consideration the position of nurses under the National Insurance Act, and particularly the question as to who will be liable to pay contribution in respect of nurses sent out by an institution to attend cases in private

houses. They consider that this question is one which will depend on the degree of control retained by the institution under whose auspices they work. The Commissioners understand that in many cases the nurse is amenable to control by the institution, and is therefore to be regarded as in their employment. In cases, however, where the institution merely acts as an agency for nurses, without any disciplinary powers, the patient is to be regarded as the employer, as would be the case if the nurse were working entirely on her own account. The only case in which a nurse, generally speaking, will not have to be insured is the case where she receives patients into her own home for treatment.

I am, madam,

Your obedient servant,

L. G. BROCK.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board at their meeting last Saturday decided to put all their employees under the Insurance Act. The Finance Committee recommended that the Managers should apply to the Insurance Commissioners for a certificate of exemption, and Mr. Jackson Hunt expressed the opinion that the adoption of the recommendation would effect a saving of £2,400 a year, but the recommendation was rejected.

## THE LEAGUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES.

The summer General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses was held in the Clinical Lecture Theatre on Saturday last. The President, Miss R. Cox-Davies, was in the chair.

The first report presented was that of the Treasurer, Miss Whitley, who reported a balance in hand at the close of the financial year on May 9th, of £47 7s. 9d., and in the reserve fund a balance of £51 12s. 3d.

Mrs. Lancelot Andrews then presented the General Secretary's report, announcing that copies of three resolutions passed at the last meeting had been sent to the members of the Cabinet, the formation of the Isla Stewart Memorial Committee, the appointment of Miss M. E. Hunter as a fraternal delegate to the International Congress of Nurses at Cologne, and the work done by Miss M. Sleigh in connection with *League News*.

A vote of thanks was passed to Miss Sleigh. The President announced the report of the scrutineers, that Miss G. R. Hale, Superintendent of the Nurses' Home, Miss E. J. Carver (Sister Rahere), Miss G. Lardner (Sister Stanley), and Miss J. Curtis (late Sister Stanley) had been appointed members of the Executive Committee in place of the four retiring members to whom a vote of thanks was passed.

The report of the Benevolent Fund showed that £14 os. od. had been granted to a member, and

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