

## NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Meeting of the Somerset and Bristol Board of the above was held at the Railway Hotel, Yatton, on February 24th, under the presidency of Miss Joseph. Reports from the different branches showed that good work had been accomplished and that the lectures given by members of the medical profession and others had been greatly appreciated. One of the chief features of the year's work has been the Post-Graduate Training for Nurses, a scheme which has proved of great benefit to those nurses availing themselves of it.

It was agreed that the following resolutions be forwarded to the Central Executive:—

1. That the Somerset Board asks to be furnished with a full list of Presidents, Central Vice-Presidents, Council and all its committees as soon as it is ready.
2. The Somerset and Bristol Board hope that during this year an effort will be made by the Central Organising Secretary to form a County Board in counties where more than one branch already exists.
3. That, owing to the conditions arising out of the war, the Somerset and Bristol Board would ask the Central Executive to defer the consideration of the revised constitution until after the next General Council Meeting, at which all committees are elected.

Miss Joseph was unanimously elected to fill the post of County President, Miss M. Fry again fills the posts of County Organiser and Treasurer. Representatives to serve on the Central Council and an Executive Committee were also appointed.

The Frome Branch held its Annual Meeting on February 27th, at the Victoria Hospital, Frome, when Miss Sumner, the Matron, kindly provided tea. The Secretaries were re-elected and vacancies on the Committee were filled. Miss Duckworth, Orchardleigh, and Miss Daniel, High Place, Frome, are joint Secretaries for this Branch. Miss Fry, County Organiser, was present. There was a social gathering after the meeting, when there was an exhibition of Model Baby Garments, Health Posters, and Old Needlework.

## PROFESSIONAL AND COMMERCIAL ACUMEN OF CANADIAN NURSES.

At the third annual meeting of *The Canadian Nurse* editorial Board, held at Toronto, the main business under consideration was the proposal of the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses to take over the control of *The Canadian Nurse*. There was a strong desire to facilitate the transfer, as it has been the objective of the Board from the inauguration of the journal.

As *The Canadian Nurse* is the official organ of all the Associations of Trained Nurses in Canada, they should own and control it absolutely, otherwise, at any time, its policy may be diverted from the true interests of the nursing profession in Canada, and the handsome profits it can easily

obtain by the loyal support of each nurse, through its advertising department, be grabbed—as they largely are in England—by commercial publishing firms, who, naturally, run such publications for their own financial benefit only, irrespective of the true interests of the profession, usually with lay editors who know nothing of the spirit of nursing or the aspirations of the best nurses. We strongly commend the determination of Canadian nurses to own and control and profit by their national nursing organ, and wish them all success in the venture.

The United States of America has proved that such a policy is unimpeachable, and we feel sure Canada is wise to follow suit.

Some day, no doubt, the unbusiness-like nurses of this country will see the wisdom of diverting the £10,000 annual profits on "ads.," now enjoyed by commercial firms and their foreign associates, running papers for nurses, into their own pockets. May we live to see the day in which their professional loyalty and acumen may accomplish so profitable a task.

## "MODERN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL NURSING FOR PROBATIONERS."

The above collection of selected lectures by Miss C. Seymour Yapp, Matron of the Poor Law Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne, is of special interest, as it is written by one who has had wide experience in the teaching and supervision of probationers under the poor law, and is thus able to deal, with practical knowledge, with the special problems of the poor law nurse which are rarely touched upon in the ordinary text-books. The first lecture is devoted entirely to giving an outline of the origin and progress of trained nursing in the Poor Law; a brief survey of the Nursing Order of 1897; a description of major and minor training schools, emphasising the need for well-trained nurses in the minor training schools; a comparison between poor law and general hospital training, which is not all to the advantage of the latter; the writer further asserts that the hours on duty of poor law nurses are generally shorter, and off duty time more liberal, than that of the general hospital nurses.

The special aim of an infirmiry nurse is, we read, "to grasp the importance of the progressive policy of all Poor Law administration, and the definite steps it is taking towards the prevention of indigence. She must do her share faithfully and intelligently towards helping the workers suffering from curable conditions back to fitness as soon as possible, in order that they may again become self-supporting."

Those who are considering the question of training will do well to note the opinion of the author that there is no public service which offers chances of promotion more rapidly than the Poor Law, nor to which thoroughly equipped women are more essential.

The book contains much useful information; and we are glad to note that the author realizes the duty of instructing probationers as to the

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