

pleasure in scrubbing their small legs with a new nailbrush.

The older woman was invited next, and she seemed amenable, although I had heard that she had hitherto refused to think of a bath! Just as we began work she sighed deeply, and fell forward into my arms—a heart attack. Luckily it soon yielded to simple treatment, and presently the patient was able to rejoin those who had been “through the mill” and were at the tea stage. A generous friend provided tea and plentiful cakes for them all after the bath. This first batch was then sent off “home” in cabs, all very cheerful, and certainly in much better spirits than either they or I had anticipated.

The second lot were not so difficult, partly because none were children, the youngest being a girl of about sixteen, who was born blind. We soon got them bathed, and after some difficulty fitted them with clothes. In some cases the effect was comic. I was anxious that all should have some head covering, as the night was frosty. These poor folk were not used to hats, and flatly refused, so we compromised with shawls. After 3½ hours' hard work we were able to send off the last batch, and then we enjoyed a breath of fresh air.

For my part I still had work to do, for I had rescued the babies' dollies from the general hecatomb, and had promised to attend to them in private. The poor dollies had suffered quite as much as their owners, and needed various supplementary garments. These were provided, and you can imagine that the return of the prodigal dolls to their various owners was hailed with cries of delight.

D. V.

## THE ORGANIZATION OF THE PROFESSION OF MASSAGE.

The organization of the profession of massage is work which is urgently needed, because more, perhaps, than any branch of remedial treatment massage has been exploited and abused. We have every sympathy, therefore, with the aspirations of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, which, founded in 1894, and incorporated in 1900, has done much to differentiate the legitimate from the illegitimate masseuse, to maintain a definite and rising educational standard, and to emphasise the professional side of the masseuse's work. Its aims are identical with those which we have set before us in working for the organization of the nursing profession for over a quarter of a century.

Until recently we have not dealt much with questions concerning masseuses, preferring to leave them to discuss their own affairs in their own official organ. But recently we have been asked to publish correspondence between the Society and some of its prominent members, and we have complied with the request, because the correspondence raised important points, and we

believe that the best policy, in the interests of everyone, is to ventilate them. The wisest solutions are usually found after free discussion.

The point of view of the members concerned will be within the memory of our readers. We have further been courteously supplied with official papers by the secretary of the Society, and desire now to make some suggestions which, if adopted, might remove just cause of complaint.

The first point which strikes us as likely to cause injustice and friction is the following Declaration which candidates entering for the Society's examination are required to sign over a sixpenny stamp.

**I undertake to abide by all the rules and regulations of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses with regard to the duties and conduct of Masseuses, and to submit to the jurisdiction of its Council in the decision of all matters relating to my conduct as a Masseuse. I further agree that in case I shall hereafter in the opinion of the Council be guilty of conduct, professional or otherwise, detrimental to the Society, to forthwith give up and return to the Secretary my Certificate, and I agree that my name may be removed from the register of Masseuses kept by the Society.**

The fact that every member of the Society has signed this Declaration, without provision being made in the Constitution for appeal, is proof of the singular incapacity of the majority of women to protect their own interests and their own professional position. They agree that the Council shall be sole arbiter as to the correctness of their conduct, professional and otherwise, and that it may, without notice and in camera, remove their names from their professional register, thereby depriving them of their means of making a professional livelihood.

Such absolute powers should not be committed to, or sought by, any governing body.

### NURSES' INTERESTS PROTECTED.

In this connection we may point out that under the Nurses' Registration Bill provision is made to safeguard the interests of any Registered Nurse proceeded against under the Act.

Clause 21 provides that “Before suspending or removing any nurse's name from the Register on account of breach of any rules or misconduct, the Council shall send to such nurse a statement in writing by registered letter of the breach or misconduct imputed to him or her, and shall afford the nurse an opportunity of giving an explanation in writing or in person.”

### MIDWIVES' INTERESTS PROTECTED.

In the case of midwives provision is made that “proceedings for the removal of a name from the Roll or the cancelling of a certificate shall be commenced by the issue of a notice in writing addressed to the accused person by the Secretary on behalf of the Central Midwives Board. Such notice shall specify the nature and particulars of the charge alleged against the accused person, and shall inform her of the

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