

Matrons, whose lives are spent in the unostentatious service of the sick poor whose needs arouse no sympathy in many now clamouring to be admitted by short cuts to the nursing profession, the claims of which only appeal to them when the war drum beats.

At a meeting of the Southend Education Committee, held on June 3rd, the Committee further considered an application signed by three assistant mistresses for permission to assist as nurses, and for payment of salary during absence at the same rate as was being paid to men joining the Forces. In case of urgency, the matter was left in the hands of the Teacherships Committee, with power to act.

A correspondent writes to us :—

Is it not possible for a deputation to be elected from the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses to go to the National Union of Teachers and point out to them how they are damaging trained nurses by such proposals, and, also, cannot these Education Committees be circularised and advised as to the true state of things?

In reference to Southend, I may state that there are two trained nurses acting as school nurses, and one acting as tuberculosis nurse, and yet no one suggested that they should be released to go to the war, and be paid their salaries. Also no one suggested that it might be better to make use of the many trained nurses in the town.

We think that Education Committees would be well advised to consult the National Council of Trained Nurses before sanctioning the use of ratepayers' money to subsidize unskilled labour, and subjecting our wounded soldiers to unskilled care, while trained and skilled nurses are still available.

Here is a most useful bit of work for a Trained Nurses' Economic League: indeed, the opportunities for work before such a League are legion.

### THE NURSES' NATIONAL TOTAL ABSTINENCE LEAGUE.

By kind invitation of Mrs. Lloyd George, the annual meeting of the Nurses' National Total Abstinence League was held on Tuesday afternoon, June 8th, at 11, Downing Street, S.W. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Eliot Yorke, and the speakers included the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Willesden, Sir William Collins (who at the last moment kindly took the place of Major Chapple, M.P., M.D., who had left for the Dardanelles), Lady Whittaker,

and Miss Richardson, Matron of the Temperance Hospital.

Mrs. Eliot Yorke said that it gave her much pleasure to preside over the meeting, held in such historic precincts, and she felt sensible of the appreciation of the profession and cause—both of which were much to the front at the present time—which had led Mrs. Lloyd George to invite the meeting to assemble at her house.

The Bishop of Willesden, who appeared to take a great interest in nursing matters, caused some amusement by commenting on the uniforms. That particular sort of coat, he said, was really not the sort of garment one would select for such a hot day, and he would suggest unbuttoning them, if it were not against the rules. He spoke of the long hours, the hardships and responsibility of a nurse's life, and how in times of overwork and overstrain the membership of the Nurses' National Total Abstinence League would help. The root of all work was sacrifice, and unless there was trust in the sacrifice God made for us all, work was bound to become hard and mechanical.

Sir William Collins spoke of his long experience as surgeon to the Temperance Hospital, and said that of the thousands of patients that had passed through his hands, he had felt it necessary in thirty cases only to order alcohol. How lamentable, he said, were the effects of alcohol, both physical and moral.

He was not one of those pessimists who said that an inebriate woman could never reform, but it was difficult to rehabilitate the human will.

"Stop the beginning." Undoubtedly alcohol was a very powerful factor in debilitating the will, but he knew of no drug that would rehabilitate it.

Sir James Paget, in a clinical lecture on an hysterical girl who could not use a limb, had said, "She says 'I cannot'; it seems 'I will not'; it is 'I cannot will.'" Alcoholism is a disease of the will.

Mrs. Lloyd George concluded the meeting with a few words of welcome. She said that her daughter had gone to the front as an orderly, and in a letter home she had said she was scrubbing for all she was worth.

Before leaving the guests were entertained to a delicious tea.

H. H.

### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

My life is but a weaving between my God and me,  
I may but choose the colours, He worketh steadily.  
Full oft He chooseth sorrow, and I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the *upper*, and I the *under* side.

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