

Now, I am sure, we will all give a grateful cheer to our Matron and to our Home Sister and our Medical Instructors.

- God bless you all, my dear, dear friends. And I hope to see you all, one by one, this year.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

Upwards of sixty years have passed since Miss Nightingale wrote the above letter—a quarter of a century after her work in the Crimea. Nursing, not yet a profession, was in those early days inspired by the deepest reverence for sick humanity by the group of young women who realised its national value—the women who later claimed professional status for those qualified to restore the sick to health and whose example we should do well to emulate at the present crisis.

INSTRUCT YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

We invite all readers of this Journal to explain to their Member of Parliament how dangerous it is that Parliament should guarantee "Faith Healers" "Christian Science Nurses" as qualified nurses of the sick, as they are not scientifically trained, and refuse to acknowledge the authority of qualified medical practitioners, and how necessary it is that the Nurses Act 1943 should be so amended as to deprive a Minister of Health of the power to define as nurses of the sick, men and women who are unqualified by training and lack of examination, by Registered Medical practitioners and Registered Nurses.

Until the 1943 Nurses Act is amended the shortage of nurses will continue.

MILITARY NURSING OFFICERS.

We note well meaning men are constantly advocating Labour Office rule to nurses, in criticising the shortage of nurses. The truth is, they object to it, and we all wonder what authority the Minister of Labour has over Q.A.I.M.N.S. These highly qualified women are military officers and should be treated as such. Surely it is the War Office which alone should have authority over Military Nursing Officers. We know many nurses who decline to appeal to the Minister of Labour for professional preferment.

Dame Katharine H. Jones, D.B.E., R.R.C., recently Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, in an admirable Address, emphasises Professional and Military status. She writes: "My duty as Matron-in-Chief was to administer Q.A.I.M.N.S., to ensure the best possible nursing for the Army; but it was also my duty to do what I could to obtain for them the full status of their function in the Army. . . . I have in fact done my best to militarise Q.A.I.M.N.S. and the T.A.N.S. . . . Having lived all my life in this atmosphere, I have learnt to appreciate its symbolism. To me, officer rank with all its symbolism, its privileges, its duties and its traditions is living reality. It means responsibilities and duties, and its traditions are a living reality. It means responsibility and hard earned privilege reflecting professional and military achievement. Can you, therefore, be surprised that conferment of commissioned rank on Q.A.I.M.N.S. and the T.A.N.S. was the most significant day in my life. To me it was

the recognition of the status which the State Registered Nurse should enjoy in relation to the auxiliary personnel. As qualified doctors have conformed to the military pattern, so now State Registered Nurses of Q.A.I.M.N.S. and T.A.N.S. were to conform to the same pattern."

We are all in sincere sympathy with the policy of Dame Katharine H. Jones concerning the military status of Q.A.I.M.N.S. It is now upwards of half a century since military rank was first suggested for Army Nurses.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Some weeks ago Miss Anna Schwarzenberg, Executive Secretary, I.C.N., had an accident which necessitated her absence from the office in New York for some time. We are glad to learn from her that she has now returned to duty and is very busy.

Miss Schwarzenberg writes: "You probably read in the papers about the great problems which our profession is facing here at this moment. I have been attending many meetings lately.

"Within a few days we shall be sending out the Minutes of our meeting on October 6th, the editing had to wait for my return to the office, which explains the delay.

"I do hope that better times are ahead for all of us."

"With best wishes for 1945."

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

We have now received a voluminous packet of records of the meeting held in October last in New York, at which there was evidently a wide interest taken in international nursing affairs by those able to attend, and which will be referred to at the meeting to be summoned at an early date by the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, which is composed of the Presidents of the Affiliated Societies of Registered Nurses, and take counsel together concerning national and international nursing affairs, pending the return of our colleagues from the war.

It will be remembered that activities were discontinued in 1940—since which time death has taken our two devoted officers, Margaret Breay and Susan A. Villiers. It was agreed to discontinue consideration of the revision of the Constitution work under review in 1939 by an experienced committee. The finances have been carefully conserved, the fees having been invested annually—a few pounds only having been expended, as rent was not incurred. So that approximately the sum of about £1,600 has been conserved and invested, upon which careful finance the National Council is to be congratulated. What will be necessary at the present time is to acquaint ourselves as far as possible with what sister National Associations of Nurses in war devastated lands are doing. Silence has been complete for the years our sisters have been dominated by tyranny, and we have no doubt they will need help to emancipate their councils from suppression. When it is a question of financial support we are the people to give a helping hand—and we shall do it with pleasure.

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