

deciding what our professional standards of nursing should be theoretically and practically to fit us for dealing with the sick; and she tried to impress upon her audience the imperative necessity for union if nurses are ever to gain the position, and the freedom and the living wage, which they ought to have.

Miss Thurstan pointed out the dangers of the constitution of the College of Nursing. She said the College as such was required, and State Registration was urgently required, but the danger for professional women was that the signatories of the College being unprofessional persons had called to help them organise the nursing profession a certain nominated body of professionals, but that the unprofessional element intended to govern. The further danger of the voluntary registration scheme of the College, for which nurses had to pay a guinea, was that without a knowledge of the constitution nurses were compelled to become members of the College and undertake to conform to its regulations. After dealing most ably with the question of professional organization and registration Miss Thurstan charmed her audience with an exceedingly interesting sketch of her war work in Russia, and aroused much sympathy for the sufferings of the glorious Russian Army and the refugees—and admiration for the manner in which Russia is facing all the misery and devastation of war.

After her brilliant lecture, the question of forming a local branch of the N.U.T.N. in Bournemouth was put to the vote, and it was agreed one should be formed. The hon. secretary and hon. treasurer were elected, Miss Lloyd, the hon. secretary, being the most popular Matron of the Royal National Sanatorium, and the treasurer a trained nurse, Miss Walker, and it was agreed that in forming the committee it should as far as possible represent every nursing interest in the district. Tea then followed and much interesting chat, Miss Thurstan having the pleasure of meeting nearly all the local Matrons and many of the well-known nurses of the town.

Nurses desiring to join should apply to Miss Lloyd, Hon. Secretary, Royal National Sanatorium, Bournemouth.

MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM.

On the 7th inst. Miss Eden addressed the Birmingham Branch at a meeting held in the General Hospital, Miss Musson presiding. She pointed out that the Union was the only professional nurses' society with branches to which nurses of all training schools could belong, and that it stood for the interests of working nurses, and maintained that only by recognising and encouraging the effort they themselves made to organise their profession would the highest be attained.

Miss Musson said she was convinced that the work of the Union should become more valuable than ever. It was organised on the same lines as the British Medical Association, and should do similar work in the future. She would like to see

a branch in every town in England and the Union with at least 10,000 members.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the speakers and to Miss Musson for so kindly allowing the Branch to meet at the hospital and for presiding.

AN ECONOMIC COMPOUND.

In opening its widely read columns to discussion on the various phases of the nursing question the *Daily Telegraph* is doing a very important service to the community. Let us hope that the ventilation of the subject, on which for once the trained worker is permitted to express her expert opinion, will result in informing the public how indivisible are the interests of the sick from the professional standards of knowledge and protected status of the trained nurse. Registration by the State can alone effect the much needed reforms in our ranks, but the Registration Authority must not be controlled by those who not only depend largely upon our services for domestic work at infinitesimal pay in institutions under their jurisdiction, and who at present pen the nursing profession up in what the great Prime Minister of Australia describes as "an economic compound." We must and will have democratic control to develop our profession on a high ethical plane.

OUR ROLL OF HONOUR.

We regret to report the death on military service of Miss Alice Maud Russell, who had been in the service of the London County Council as a school nurse since November 4th, 1912. She joined the Q.A.I.M.N.R. last year, and has been working in Malta for the past ten months. Miss Russell was a fully trained nurse holding the certificate of Westminster Hospital. She was a most conscientious and painstaking woman and endeared herself to all her colleagues through her bright, cheerful disposition. She was in charge of the cleansing station at Battersea before she went on war service, where her kindly, sympathetic ways with the children made her very popular. Miss Russell was from the first outbreak of war most anxious to volunteer. She has died of an illness contracted during the performance of her patriotic duty, and her colleagues of the nursing staff of the L.C.C. feel glad that this was recognised by according her a soldier's funeral.

Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Hope, working temporarily on the L.C.C. staff, as she was deeply attached to her sister, whose life has been laid down for her country.

The scheme for the establishment at Cardiff of a Welsh Hospital for the treatment of disabled soldiers on the lines of the Roehampton Institution has been carried through, the £20,000 appealed for having been subscribed. For the hospital premises an old Cardiff mansion house has been purchased.

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