

day and one on night duty—whose duty it should be to *nurse* the patient, in addition to the legal supervision of a constable. Police supervision alone is quite inadequate in cases of suicidal mania.

A Policy of Progress.

A MEMBER of the Royal British Nurses' Association and a careful reader of the RECORD makes the suggestion "that a series of meetings should take place to explain what the aims and objects of the Association really are."

We are not surprised that the Nurse in question is somewhat mystified, and we think her suggestion an excellent one, as we find, upon speaking to many new members, they have very little real knowledge of the great aim and work which the British Nurses' Association was founded to attain and accomplish. The system of holding meetings of explanation amongst Nurses before they joined the Association, which was the custom a few years ago, was an excellent one, and by that means the Nurses who joined did so for definite objects, and loyally co-operated in the work, as, for instance, in obtaining, as they did, thousands of signatures for the appeal to the Privy Council for the Royal Charter.

Now, we are of opinion that, owing to the present deplorable policy of our Hon. Officers, supported by an Executive Committee, by whom the very principles upon which the Association was founded have been publicly denied, it would certainly be wise for those members of the Association who helped to found it for the benefit of Nurses, and for definite purposes, to meet together and formulate a distinct policy. Such a policy would involve a movement to bring about:—

- (1) An organised curriculum of Nursing Education.
- (2) Central Examinations.
- (3) State Registration.
- (4) The suppression of Nurse Sweating by Hospitals and other Institutions.
- (5) Co-operative work for Registered Nurses in private practice.
- (6) A Central Conference Council.
- (7) A Co-operative Benefit Scheme.

We are of opinion that those who desire to see such reforms carried out, having formulated their policy and the work which they wish to accomplish, should submit this to the Execu-

tive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, with the request that it should be brought before the Council, and that a definite answer should be pronounced by the Governing Body of the Association whether or no they are prepared to adopt such a scheme of work for Nurses. We should then know where we were, and if the Royal British Nurses' Association declined to undertake to work for these necessary reforms a new Society of Nurses could be formed for the express purpose. Such a Society would have a place in the National Council of Women, and in the Women's Industrial Council of this country, and most certainly would have the sympathy of all thoughtful Doctors, Matrons and Nurses, and also of the public and the Press.

We shall be pleased to hear the opinions of our readers on this suggestion, not necessarily for publication; all letters on the subject to be addressed to ourselves personally, the envelope of which should be marked "Progress" in the corner.

Common Sense v. Charity.

At a recent graduation of trained Nurses of the Hahnemann Homœopathic Hospital, New York, Dr. Charles Mohr related a touching incident he witnessed at the doors of the Hospital a few days since, when an old, forlorn, and crippled negro woman bade good-bye to the "little nurse" who had cared for her while in the Hospital, and made it serve for a text to inculcate tenderness and sympathy. "Remember, Nurses," said Dr. Mohr, "it is not a pneumonia, or a typhoid fever, or an appendicitis you are Nursing, but a sentient human being, whose very life may depend upon your intelligent and loving care." So far so good. Dr. Mohr, however, advised Nursing among the poor to moderate fees, or even without pay, so as to bring "sweetness and light" into dirty and dark homes, and at the same time enable the recent graduate Nurse to gain experience in the care of the sick, who, but for the ministrations of a good woman, would suffer untold misery, or even die. This advice is all very well when the Nurse has an independent income. Otherwise, if she nurses "even without pay" she will assuredly find herself, when the time for full and hard work has gone by, the recipient of parish relief. High ethics are admirable, but a Nurse must be just before she is generous. It is unreasonable to expect Nurses, whose working life is necessarily a short one, to work for nothing.

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