

the British Medical Association. He invited members of the Council to express their views in regard to these measures. After considerable discussion, it was decided to approach the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association, with a view to combined action to prevent hasty and ill-considered legislation, by obtaining the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the whole nursing question.

It was also decided to hold a General Meeting, after Easter, to consider the Midwives Bill, and the work of the General Medical Council; and a Committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

It is much to be hoped that the united councils of these important medical bodies will come to some wise conclusion on this important question of legislation for nurses. Nothing can be more unsatisfactory and detrimental alike to the interests of the nurses and the public, than the present condition of affairs.

THE high handed, unconstitutional, and bullying policy of the present managers of the Royal British Nurses' Association, supported by a small clique of medical busybodies of no professional standing, has, during the past three years, convinced a large proportion of the community that the interests of the nurses and also of the sick public, are the very last objects which the gentlemen in question are seeking to attain.

THIS narrow-minded little coterie have terrorised or alienated most of the matrons and nurses on the Association. A very small proportion of the former, backed of sheer necessity, for bread-and-butter reasons, by their subordinate nurses, support any "job" which may be proposed by the officials. The majority, being honourable, though not always independent, women, stand aside, declining to take any part in such a discreditable system.

WE propose at an early date to explain the methods by which Mr. Fardon framed and thrust the Officials' Bye-Laws through the Executive, Council, and General Meeting; and we are also preparing a pamphlet upon the whole history of the Association during the last four years—proving that the nurses of Great Britain have been deprived of various rights and privileges. If Mr. Fardon thinks that his proceedings will be hidden under a bushel, he has made a very considerable mistake.

Nursing the Plague.

ENGLISH nurses all over the world will rejoice to learn from eye-witnesses how well their colleagues in Bombay rose to the occasion at the late disastrous fire, which razed to the ground the temporary plague hospitals of three separate communities, and members of the Registered Nurses' Society will rejoice that one of their number, Sister Snowdon, was singled out for special commendation for her courageous conduct on this occasion.

THE *Bombay Gazette* gives a glowing account of the conduct of the nurses under fire, but we are informed by an eye-witness that this account is not altogether correct. The four nurses who helped to rescue the patients were Miss Winscon, Miss Snowdon, Miss Campbell, and Miss Buckley, the other sisters being off duty at the time. Sister Snowdon behaved with the utmost heroism, being in charge of the Parsee Ward, and deserted by native helpers and patients' friends, who fled as soon as the fire broke out, she managed to carry all her patients to a place of safety—*carried one by one*—the hut being in flames as she escaped with her last charge. From the time that the European hospital was in flames, to the time at which the whole block of buildings were demolished, was only twenty minutes—and we at home who know little Sister Snowdon, well know that she would be faithful to her charge—even unto death!

It is sincerely to be hoped that these four heroines will receive some mark of special recognition at the hands of the Queen—if the Royal Red Cross is not for them (and it has been bestowed for services much less heroic). We claim that the time has come when a Civil Order of Merit for Nurses is due from the nation to women who pass through a fiery ordeal with almost superhuman courage and devotion. The NURSING RECORD demands, in the name of gratitude and justice, that the heroic conduct of Sisters A. Buckley, M. Campbell, J. Snowdon, and Winscon, be commemorated; and we hope that the authorities will see that justice is done.

DR. K. MARION HUNTER writes to the *Queen* that "plague is practically at an end in Poona," and gives the following interesting information:—

"The General Plague Hospital is an institution unique in the annals of plague administration. Starting from a very small beginning, it finally became the largest plague hospital of which there is any record. At one time there were 498 plague patients and some sixty suspected plague patients located at the same time here.

"The staff of the hospital included four qualified doctors, viz., Surgeon-Captain Lloyd Jones in charge, Dr. Marion Hunter and Dr. Adams (afterwards succeeded by Dr. Marsh)—the latter three having been

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