

The Dutch League for Promoting the Interests of Nurses and Assistants with its organ *Nosokomos* is mentioned; but, in opposition to the others, without an epitome of its constitution, and merely with the remark that "it was established in May, 1900, and has yet to show its vital power."

Journalistically speaking this report is unfair. For Dutch readers it is incorrect. As the union *Nosokomos*, after the first year of its existence, numbers as many members as the League after eighteen years' existence, this doubt of its vital power is somewhat out place, and it can not have been uttered in earnest!

Mrs. La Bastide-Baarslag is fully aware that most probably the Buffalo Congress-Members would have heard with sympathy that a trades-union had been established in Holland, if she had deigned to refer to it by giving an extract of its constitution. In 1899, at the Congress of the International Council of Women in London, in a meeting of hospital-matrons, the desirability was expressed of forming this kind of union (National Councils of Nurses) in different countries. For Holland, Miss Reynvaan and Miss Kruyse were appointed for that purpose.

Mrs. La Bastide-Baarslag should have known all this, and, if not, the editors of the "Monthly Review" (the organ of the League) knew it.

Why is *Nosokomos* so much opposed?

I fancy I hear the arguments already. They are the arguments invariably given in these cases. The action of the union *Nosokomos* is bent on sapping all authority, on rebelling against the vested interests, the union is against all governing boards, etc., etc.

That *Nosokomos'* proceedings are alleged to be the cause of the opposition with which it meets is entirely untrue. Before the constitution was published, even before the union was formed, the opposition was already there. The argument that the union's action is the cause of adverse criticism is generally recognised to be a fallacy.

The cause is a different one. Every trades union of persons immediately dependent on their superiors is opposed, and the opposition is great or small, as the obtaining conditions are more or less blamable.

The union of doctors, and of midwives, has not been resisted because they are much more independent than nurses.

If all nurses grasped this truth and reflected on it, they would know their duty, and see how much value can be attached to all the nonsense that is rumoured about their union.

Then they would feel, how useful and necessary is a common bond between all members of our profession, and how much more respected that profession will be, when the less-educated shall be given more training.

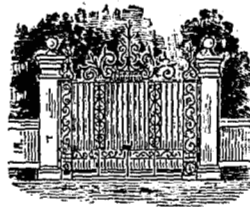
When all nurses and assistants who have any sympathy for their calling join us, and leave aside the promptings of partiality and the petty arguments of those who control their labour, we shall much sooner reach the goal which we are sure to attain one day, be it slowly yet certainly. Sooner or later they will come to us, and then they shall reap the harvest sown for them by others.

To be sure that is easier, but it makes the pioneers' task the more difficult. Whomsoever this consideration does not touch, may yet wait some time, before joining *Nosokomos*.

J. ALTRINO VAN STOCKUM
Amsterdam. Secretary of *Nosokomos*.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Countess Cadogan has addressed a communication to Lord Roberts on behalf of the Duchess of Abercorn and other lady subscribers in Ireland, requesting his acceptance of the Star and Badge of the Order of St. Patrick as a tribute of their admiration. Lady

Cadogan wrote that she trusted that the gift might serve to remind Lord Roberts of the warm hearts of his Irish compatriots, who were very proud of his illustrious career. Lord Roberts, in thanking Countess Cadogan on behalf of the subscribers for the gift, has written that he felt quite overwhelmed, and utterly unable to express adequately his deep appreciation of the great compliment paid to him by the ladies of Ireland, whose charming present would always be one of his most highly-valued possessions. The badge is set with diamonds, and the star is composed entirely of diamonds.

In England the adoption of gardening as a profession by women has for several years found a good deal of favour, mainly owing to the facilities for instruction afforded by the School of Gardening for Women founded at Reading by the Countess of Warwick, and at the Horticultural College at Swanley. Two ladies—Miss Barker and Miss Morison—holding the diploma of the Swanley College, have now decided to break ground in Scotland, and the first school of the kind in that country will shortly be opened at Inveresk, near Musselburgh. Scotland has always been famous for its male gardeners; we doubt not that in the future it will be equally famous for its women gardeners.

A most able letter appeared in the *Westminster Gazette* on Saturday last, signed "Colonial Experience," asking a question which we women should demand to have answered before we emigrate to South Africa—to help to "put things straight"—at the close of the war. "What, then," it is asked, "will be the *locus standi* of women who are properly qualified ratepayers, or in an analogous position, in this latest colony?"

Are the flower of Britain's womanhood to emigrate to a new country to find themselves voteless, and therefore governed by laws made by men of all colours and conditions; classed with Kaffir criminals, the pauper and the insane of all nations? The degradation of such a position is not to be entertained for one minute, and we have got to inform the Colonial Secretary of the fact in very plain language indeed.

The Boer women in the concentration camps have been officially blamed for their superstitious ignorance on matters medical, but according to *Country Life*, "charms" still survive nearer home than the South African veldt,

Oxfordshire is the latest county to come into prominence as being possessed of villages in which charms are preferred to doctors for the remedy

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