

the position of servants but of beggars, as it seeks power to solicit donations, in other words "to beg," and that notwithstanding the fact that the Co-operation is self-supporting. What, asks Mr. Bannatyne, is the object of so altering the Constitution as to classify the Co-operation in the list of the city's charitable institutions?

Another correspondent, "Scrutator," says: "Had the nurses who were present at the meeting not voted against the proposal it would evidently have been carried and the change effected without discussion or comment. Can it be believed that as a result of the above action the nurses have been called upon by an eminent doctor, who was most anxious for the change, to sign an apology, to be forwarded to him, expressing regret for having by their vote dared to oppose his wishes, otherwise the eminent one would at once sever his connection with the Co-operation?"

"We own that years ago the statement would have been incredible, but after ten years' experience of the tactics of the medical honorary officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association we find no difficulty in believing it. The economic pressure brought to bear upon the nurse members of this Association was not the least discreditable aspect of a discreditable story, and nurses do not yet realise that their employers are not medical men, but the public, whose paid servants they both are.

We desire at the present juncture to impress upon the nurses of the Co-operation the necessity for insisting that no alteration in the Constitution shall take place until they, and their legal advisers, have had an opportunity of carefully studying it, and that they must strenuously oppose, and vote against, any alteration which curtails the privileges they already possess, and endeavour to obtain more liberties, more privileges, and more power in their Co-operation.

In conclusion, we desire to express our willingness to afford the nurses any advice, or to bring any points of difficulty which may arise, before the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland for its opinion. For the last ten years, during which we have fought for the industrial and professional liberty of trained nurses, we have had many opportunities of studying the intricacies connected with the question.

Grateful Patients.

Miss C. McLeary, at one period of the war Matron of the hospital established in the House of Parliament at Maritzburg, has been presented by the officers and men of the Natal Carbineers with a silver girdle of quaint and original design. It is composed of a number of medallions, on which are represented, in relief, different scenes and objects reminiscent of the war. The clasp bears the Carbineer monogram, and on one of the medallions a dedication to Nurse McLeary is engraved.

The Victorian Trained Nurses' Association.



The First Annual Meeting of the Victorian Trained Nurses' Association was held in the Athenæum Hall, Melbourne, on October 13th, and was attended by some 200 nurses, looking fresh and dainty in indoor uniform. The Annual Report was presented by the Secretary, Dr. W. A. Wood, who also announced that a paid secretary had been appointed and an office secured at Oxford Chambers, Bourke Street West.

The Treasurer, Dr. Vance, congratulated the Society on its strong financial position, and Dr. O'Sullivan, in moving a vote of thanks to the retiring Council, said that the educated nurses of the present day were entitled to the fullest respect from everyone.

The poll for the election of officers and members of the Council, 1902-3, was then declared, and it was decided that country sub-committees, of which there should not be more than three, should each have two representatives on the Council.

Mr. Godfrey, Chairman of the Melbourne Hospital Committee, addressed the meeting on the advantages of the Association to the public. The great advantage to the public, he said, was that relatives of sick persons could employ a member of the Association in perfect assurance that she was fully qualified, competent, and efficient.

Dr. G. K. Syme, who spoke regarding the advantages of the Association to the medical profession, said that the imposition of untrained and unskilled nurses upon doctors and the public in cases of emergency would now be impossible.

Miss Glover (Hon. Secretary) observed that as forty-five country hospitals had become affiliated with the Association, the day when untrained Matrons pretended to teach nurses their work was now at an end.

The Nurse "Char."

In the reports of the Southwark Mystery, we observe a paragraph, headed "Nurse's Story," which opens: "Jessie Toon, the charwoman, who was engaged by Chapman as a nurse, repeated the remarkable evidence she gave before the coroner." Part of this evidence was to the effect that the accused man Chapman gave the nourishment and injections to the dead woman himself. No doubt he was quite as capable of performing these duties as the "char." But why dub the latter "nurse"? Simply because without State Registration the term has no significance, and a "nurse," however well qualified, no more legal status than the "char."

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