

not belong to any corporation. These nurses, as well as nearly all the male attendants, are not under the control of a matron or a managing board, and therefore, though the majority are as respectable as the nurses of the corporations, they may include persons of a low moral or professional standard. Hitherto if such persons have neglected their duties or have behaved in an unfair way it has been very difficult to make this known to the public. When dismissed by one family they have had every chance of being employed by another on the next day, it having been very unlikely that in a big place like Berlin their misdeeds would become known. Henceforth, when a patient has reason to complain of a 'free' nurse he will only have to inform the central office and the nurse's name will then be removed from the register.

"Dr. Schwalbe further proposes that the central office for nurses shall be in connection with the First Aid Society. This Society, apart from its other undertakings, has instituted an office provided with a special telephonic system whereby the public may get information at any hour of the day or night as to the number of beds at disposal in all the hospitals of Berlin and its suburbs. As this office works perfectly well and is very popular the public will probably not hesitate to apply to it for nurses. The First Aid Society being under medical patronage, bribery and other unfair methods of the nurses to get employment will be prevented. The managing board of the First Aid Society is said to agree with Dr. Schwalbe's proposals. Berlin will thus be the first town to establish a central organisation including every branch of nursing."

The centralisation of nursing institutions in a big city may, or may not, be a good thing; we are inclined to think co-operation extremely beneficial if the "co-operatives" manage their own affairs. But to constitute private nursing a monopoly under the medical faculty and the public is to place the workers at a very unfair disadvantage, as they at once lose liberty of action, and therefore become mere industrial helots. We hope the nurses of Berlin will realise the danger of a professional private Nursing Trust before it is too late. German women of all classes are so powerless and dependent that the manipulation of their industrial and professional affairs is a very real danger.

The Hospital Sunday Fund.

At the Mansion House the Hospital Sunday Fund now amounts to £58,400, including £11,000 from Mr. George Herring on account of his promised donation of one-fourth of the amount collected at various places of worship.

The American Nursing World.

THE QUESTION OF STATE REGISTRATION.

At the recent meeting of the Associated Alumnae (the United Nurses' Leagues) of the United States, the President (Miss Damer) remarked, "The question which interests us most to-day is that of State organisation," with the result that a lengthy session was given up to reading papers on State Registration of Nurses, discussing the same, and receiving numerous interesting reports from various States.

Miss Riddle, Boston City Hospital, opened the session by reading the paper presented by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, "The Organisation and Registration of Nurses," to the International Congress at Buffalo, and which appeared in this journal on April 12th of this year.

The President then remarked that "as several of our States have already organised for the purpose of securing registration, we will hear from some of their delegates."

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

FROM NEW JERSEY STATE.

Mrs. Stevens, of New Jersey State, presented the following report, which was read by Miss Spear, of the Paterson General Hospital:—

The idea of State registration is of such recent growth, and its importance is so little realised by the great majority of the nursing profession, that it becomes the duty of those who have entered into the spirit of the movement and foresee its manifold advantages to preach a crusade which will draw every member into the ranks. Much hard work will be involved, as we have prejudice to overcome, ignorance to enlighten, and general apathy to fight against. A large majority of workers have been contented with their present status, closing their eyes to the needs of their less fortunate fellow-workers. The most successful have been satisfied that no change should take place, and have failed to observe the signs that in the future something more will be demanded than the certificate which gave them their places in the nursing profession ten, fifteen, and twenty years ago. Nothing is standing still, and few things have moved with more firm footsteps than the advancement in skilled nursing; and with so wide a field open to all competitors, there are broad gaps through which have entered, and will continue to do so in increasing numbers, those who have no more right to stand side by side with us than has the medical student, who has failed to satisfy his examiners, to practise his profession, or those professors who go by the name of quack doctors. Surely the standard of graduate or trained nurse should be equally lofty and above reproach. It is not intended, by any means, to belittle the services which an untrained nurse can render in the homes of those unable to afford the skill of the thoroughly educated and equipped graduate from our many and excellent training-schools, but there must be a very distinct line drawn between the class who pick up their knowledge partly by the instinct that is supposed to lie dormant in the "born nurse" and partly buy or gather their experience from each new patient who employs them, and the woman

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