

The Board of Trade Inquiry.

The following letter has been received by the signatories to petitions against the incorporation of the Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses, signed by Mr. G. S. Barnes:—

The Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses.

"I am directed by the Board of Trade to refer to your letter of.....addressed to the President of the Board of Trade, forwarding on behalf of the.....a Protest against the granting of a License to the above-named Society to incorporate without the word 'Limited' after its name, and to inform you that the hearing of objections will take place on Friday, May 5th, at 11.30, in the Deputation Room of the Board, at 7, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.

"I am also to say that the Board desire to hear the objectors personally, and not solicitors or counsel on their behalf."

Amongst the Resolutions of Protest against the scheme which was sent in to the Board of Trade before the time limit expired was the following one from the Midland Medical Society:—

"That this Council strongly disapprove of the proposal to incorporate 'The Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses,' and appoint Dr. Langley Browne (President of the Union) as a deputation to represent to the Board of Trade the grave objections to the scheme."

An article in the Journal of this Society states:—

"The application which has been made to the Board of Trade for the incorporation of a Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses does not appear to have attracted the attention it deserves.

"So far as we can learn, the scheme has been secretly formulated without any preliminary consultation with the recognised heads of the Nursing and Medical Professions, and it is based on the principle of voluntary registration—which has already been tried and found useless. It is very generally recognised now that any system of registration to be effective must be under the authority of the State, and although it may be some time yet before legislation in this direction can be looked for, nothing could be more mischievous than to attempt to anticipate State Registration by handing over the control of the nursing profession to a body of laymen who, for all that we know to the contrary, may be totally unfit to properly perform the duties they wish to assume. We hold that any scheme for the control of the nursing profession should provide for the direct representation of trained nurses on the governing body; but in the new scheme all the powers are vested in a Council of Management, consisting of the seven applicants for incorporation and persons they may choose to appoint.

"The applicants for incorporation and the signatories of the Memorandum of Association are Lords Rothschild and Revelstoke, and Messrs. E. A. Hambro, S. Hope Morley, C. H. Goschen, C. Hugh Smith, and H. Cosmo Bonsor."

First Aid.

THE WORK OF A VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE IN AN ENGLISH COUNTRY TOWN.

By Miss M. C. FAIR.

It is a matter of importance and interest to the community at large that every town should maintain an efficient and really well-trained corps of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. They are of universal service to the sick and injured around them in time of peace, and in time of war you have ready a trained and disciplined body of men who form a reserve Army Medical Corps capable of rendering (as they did in the South African War) an immense service to their country.

There are many people who have an extremely hazy idea of what the work and organisation of such an ambulance corps really is. They know that the victims of accidents reach our hospitals somehow, but it does not occur to them that in that somehow there lies a question very likely of life or death, certainly of increased or diminished suffering according as skilled hands effect that removal or not. Some of our towns—not small towns either—are a disgrace in this respect. I have seen a man with a fractured thigh or a broken back brought to the hospital jammed into a cab in an upright sitting position; such things would never happen with a properly trained ambulance brigade, such as one whose work I will describe, as being a typical corps whose work may be imitated in every town. It must be explained that the work of the men is quite voluntary, they give up their time for drill and instruction, and they can be called out at any time to render first aid, to convey casualties to the hospitals or their homes, or for the transport of the sick.

There is, in the Lake Country, a thriving and busy little town called Kendal, and Kendal has the honour of possessing an Ambulance Brigade that ranks second only in efficiency and smartness to the London team. They have achieved this position solely by their keen attention to drill and instruction, and by the intelligent interest they take in their work.

As well as the Symons Eccles Cup (which they hold by virtue of their position as second team in this country), they have won the Crossfield Challenge Shield at Warrington, 1901 and 1902, and many other cups and shields. Many of the men wear the African Medal. Seventeen of them went to the front, and fourteen returned. Enteric accounted for three. The litter (an Ashford) is a memorial of one, Ion, while the best accident bed at the hospital records the deaths of Sergeants Inder and Redhead in their country's service. Two more useful and suitable memorials could not have been found by their comrades. They have also done duty in London at the Coronation, at the Royal Agricultural Show at Carlisle, and at many shows and gatherings in the country round, and at each the record given of their work has been excellent.

The organisers of the corps were Captain Cockill, A.M.R. (who is still its surgeon), and its present Superintendent, Mr. Walter Harrison. It has been formed nearly five years, and now registers about forty members. Their equipment is gradually becoming very complete. They use a horse ambulance and an Ashford litter, and there are eight stretchers and four surgical haversacks, exclusive of the complete equipment of the horse ambulance. This ambulance is

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