

The objects of the Association were to promote the interests of nurses to assist them in their struggle against many abuses and to edit a paper in which then could freely discuss what changes were desirable and the best means of obtaining these reforms. For the only nursing paper then published did not open its columns for the expression of opinions which were different from its own. Now matters have somewhat changed, for the association of male nurses is allowed to hotly discuss its affairs in that paper, they asked it so humbly, a thing we never did. The association of male nurses, although having the same aims as Nosokomos, asked at its formation the permission of the board of the "Bond voor zieke verpleging," to form an association within that society, because nothing could be obtained without the help and assistance of the directors of hospitals. They were rather abjectly humble and flattering towards their superiors; now the permission is granted they speak more boldly about their aims but of course the directors, in a patronising way, tell them most of their schemes are not acceptable. We, members of Nosokomos, are curious about the length of time the male nurses' association, with its radical aims, will live in peace with the autocratic and conservative Association.

During the first six years of its existence, Nosokomos had a very hard struggle against the fierce opposition of physicians, directors of hospitals and Matrons, some of whom did not allow their staff to be members of the trade union. They did not want nurses to be so independent as to work themselves for obtaining reforms. Everything had to be a favour, no right.

Now the greatest difficulties are overcome, our Association is getting the consideration due to its untiring efforts to bring about improvements. Some directors, members of the Directors' Council, adopted last month a resolution to boycott us, but that does not trouble us, most of the young members of the medical profession are on our side, and think our wishes very reasonable.

These wishes are: A better and more thorough training.

A more practical division of working and class hours;

Less working hours;

Regulation by the State of the curriculum of training schools; State examinations;

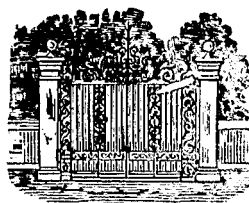
Special training, after the three years' general training, for Matrons, head nurses, and district nurses, also in all the different kinds of social work that will soon be the nurses' sphere of action.

From all I have written you will see matters here are by far not as they should be. Some improvements have been obtained, but very slowly. Still, if we compare the conditions as they are now and as they were some ten years back, there is ground for satisfaction. What we have gained gives us hope and courage for further struggles.

An order has been received at the Military Hospital at Aldershot from the War Office directing that in future, where a stimulant is necessary, medical officers are to prescribe whisky instead of brandy.

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



Women Suffragists, active as ever, were holding meetings in Lancashire last week. At Blackburn, Mrs. Philip Snowden, wife of one of the local members, who presided at a Woman's Suffrage demonstration, said, on introducing Mrs. Cobden Saunderson, Miss Billington, Miss Pankhurst, and Miss Kenney, that so far she had lacked the moral courage to make herself disagreeable; but there was plenty of time, and the wife of the junior member for Blackburn might yet find herself incarcerated for advocating what was obvious justice. Mrs. Cobden Saunderson said that if only women were enfranchised they would be very glad to clear out the House of Lords for the Government.

Dr. J. Walter Carr, F.R.C.S., writing in the *Lancet* on the admission of women as members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, says:—"All that women ask, now that after many years of struggling they have gained an established position in medicine, is that 'complete equality of opportunity' which is the ideal nowadays in all departments of life and which is denied them so long as they are excluded by the bodies which grant qualifications to the majority of the medical students in this country. The qualifying bodies have, moreover, a duty to the public in this matter; there is now a very definite demand for women doctors, not merely from individual women patients, but from a large and increasing number of public bodies in all parts of the country, which find that women can do certain kinds of medical work at least as well as men. Now the qualifying bodies exist essentially for the benefit of the public and it becomes, therefore, their duty to supply properly qualified women as well as men to meet this demand, any body which refuses to do this is really evading its full responsibilities." This is sound sense.

At the Cripplegate Institute Mr. High, in the course of a recent lecture on "Accountancy as a Profession for Ladies," mentioned that the newly incorporated Institute of Accountants and Book-keepers (now numbering upwards of 500 members) admitted both sexes, and had qualified ladies on its district councils. Among lady teachers were really gifted mathematicians; many large firms employed ladies as bookkeepers; and in some cases these ladies prepared balance sheets, trading accounts, and profit and loss accounts. He thought the time had come when qualified women should be recognised by the large professional societies among accountants. Most unjustly the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Incorporated Accountants' Society, although they have ample evidence of the possession of the qualifications required by their own rules by various women, have hitherto rigorously excluded them.

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