

do, and what France can do, England is going to do even better in the future."

The first child to present a purse was a little girl on crutches, who was made happy by a gracious smile when she handed in £20. The last, containing £250, was presented by a boy, who was also a cripple.

Nurses who are not members of the Guild of St. Barnabas, know that its ideal is founded on Christian precepts, and the greatest of these is Charity. We were not surprised, therefore, to hear a member of the Guild express deep sorrow that Miss Catherine G. Wood, the Hon. Secretary of this religious Guild, should have so far forgotten its very first principles in referring to her colleagues at home—during her tour round the world—ostensibly to visit the Guild branches.

*Una*, the organ of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, reports an address given before the Society by Miss Wood at Melbourne, from which we quote the following paragraph:

"When Parliament comes to us and asks us to define a nurse, we cannot define her; we have no definition as to what is a nurse. She may have been working three months in a hospital, a convalescent home, an asylum, or she may be even without that experience at all, and she may practice as a nurse and earn her £2 2s. or £3 3s. as the case may be if she can "gull" it out of the public, and we cannot say her nay. We have tried in one direction and another to see if we could not remedy this evil which is a very grave hindrance to our work. I regret very much to say that the Royal British Nurses' Association, of which I believe the Australian Trained Nurses' Association, and this the Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, may be looked upon as children, having sprung from their parent—The Royal British Nurses' Association, is now doing nothing at all from a professional point of view. It is true we have a Matrons' Council, but that Council very often succeeds in setting up the backs of the matrons rather than bringing them into accord with its ideas. Then we have a State Registration Society, and that sometimes is a perfect bugbear amongst people, especially those who have been worried and badgered and told that they must have nurses registered by the State or all the population of England or London will come to an end through their mal-practices. Well, as I say, all these committees are doing nothing at all, except fighting one with the other."

The only atom of truth in this most uncharitable paragraph is the statement that we have no uniform nursing standard, and that the public is at the mercy of ignorant persons posing as skilled nurses, who exploit it.

For the rest, it is to be regretted that Miss Wood allows her bitter intolerance of a younger generation of nurses, who are animated by a generous public spirit, and with whose businesslike professionalism she is entirely out of sympathy, to betray her into false statements about them and their work.

The absolute harmony which prevails between the Matrons' Council, and the Society for the State Registration of Nurses is proverbial, and that the earnest co-operation between the members of these societies has secured the unanimous report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons in favour of their just demands for a Central Nursing Council to define a "nurse," and provide for the Registration of nurses, to protect the sick public from shams, proves that their work has succeeded. Moreover, the fact that the two last women to be hanged in Holloway Gaol for murder were working as nurses may convince our Australian colleagues that it is high time such "mal-practices" ceased.

The truth is that Miss Wood has never forgiven the spontaneous unanimity with which organised Matrons and Nurses, and the medical profession rose and protested at the Board of Trade in 1905, when she combined secretly with a few non-representative persons and applied to it to incorporate a Society to govern nurses founded on a dangerously autocratic system—a unanimous protest which happily defeated the scheme. The day for autocracy is gone, even in conservative England, and this is a fact we fear Miss Wood will never realise.

Speaking at the Mansion House on the good work at the Brompton Hospital for Consumption, Dr. Arthur Lathom described the interesting scheme in view for the out-patient department of greater service to the nation. Their scheme is as follows:—Every individual who, on examination at the Brompton Hospital was found to be consumptive, would be asked to allow his condition to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health of his district. If he consented, active steps would be taken by the Medical Officer of Health to improve his hygienic surroundings, and to prevent the spread of infection. The Medical Officer of Health and the Lady Almoner would work together in bringing the patient into touch with outside charitable organisations. They were asking Medical Officers of Health to do something more, and to this the Hospital authorities attached the greatest importance. They were asking them to send to the Brompton

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