

they should have a right to the surrender value of their policies.

(3) That now the amendment has been accepted, providing that nurses shall have the insurance allowance of 7s. 6d. or 5s. weekly, for which they have paid—even if receiving board and lodging from their employers—it would be well to let that arrangement stand, and not to make provision for the employer to pay less if he contracts to pay wages and give board and medical attendance to employees—a contract, we imagine, very few employers will venture to make with either nurses, servants, or others; although as now the majority of employers will no doubt deal generously with those in their service or on the staffs of institutions which they govern.

We hope the nursing profession will not fail to urge these reforms, and also that they will not leave all the work of agitating to the few public-spirited, over-worked members who rely upon their support.

**NURSES' PROTECTION FUND.**

The following sums have been received with thanks by the Committee organised to look after the interests of trained nurses in connection with the National Insurance Bill:—

	£	s.	d.
Sisters and Nurses, St. Bartholomew's Hospital ... ..	1	10	0
Miss B. Kent ... ..	5	0	0
Miss Thompson, R.N.S. ... ..	3	6	0
Mrs. Fenwick ... ..	2	6	0
Miss Breay ... ..	2	6	0
	£2	3	6

The Editor hopes the small sum expended will be contributed by next week. A few six-pences will wipe out the debt, but legislative reform cannot be accomplished without expenditure of cash as well as hard work.

**Progress of State Registration.**

During 1911 four Bills for the State Registration of Nurses have become law. One in the State of Vermont in January, one in the State of Idaho in March. The State of Oregon Bill is pronounced by the *American Journal of Nursing* as one of the best Bills secured. It provides a Board of Nurse Examiners chosen by the Governor from a list sent by the Oregon State Nurses' Association. There was no opposition to the measure, and the entire cost outside printing was 34 dollars. Happy nurses

of Oregon, to be governed by such liberal-minded men!

The Bill for registration in Tennessee became law in April after a strenuous struggle on the part of the nurses. This also is considered an excellent law, and the entire cost of legislation was merely 140 dollars!

The New Jersey Bill passed the House without great opposition, but the Senate snuffed it out. New Jersey nurses mean to fight again next session; they are sure of success at an early date.

When we think of the thousands of pounds British nurses have had to pay in their justified attempt to have their work legally organised, and the sick people of these realms protected from inefficient nursing, owing to the autocracy of voluntary hospital managers, one wonders if, after all, the voluntary hospital system, devoid as it is of the mother influence, is such an unbounded blessing to the community as its advocates so insistently proclaim, or if it has not become a back number in its domineering spirit of sex exclusion.

One thing is being gradually borne in upon the live women's associations in all directions, and that is that nursing is purposely kept disorganised and unprotected by the State, because the training schools are entirely dominated by men, and because unorganised labour can be kept cheap and lucrative.

**AMERICAN NURSES HELP EACH OTHER.**

The American Nurses' Association, at its recent annual meeting at Boston, U.S.A., enthusiastically adopted a recommendation to found a pension fund; 1,800 dollars were pledged in the room, and the fund, to be, of course, entirely managed by the nurses themselves, is to be known as the Emergency Relief Fund, unless a better title can be found later. It is to be used for special cases of unusual need. We are always having cause to congratulate American nurses on their business acumen and public spirit. "Who controls my purse controls my person," is a lesson nurses on this side have not yet assimilated. Some day, when we have time, we will do a little sum for them, and show them how they are exploited of thousands and thousands of pounds annually, because they are too apathetic to learn something of business, or to work for the profession as a whole.

In this month's *International Hospital Review*, Dr. Winford H. Smith has an exhaustive article on "The Graduate Nurse, Her Opportunities, Her Responsibilities," in which he urges nurses not to be content with their diplomas, "but go farther and become registered."

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