

training; if they cannot fulfil that condition they should not be allowed to take probationers. And as it seems that the Medical Superintendents and Matrons do not see their duty in this matter, the Government should interfere. The Committee is of opinion that the present training is sufficient, there is no need of a State certificate of protection for the profession. As I have already said, it thinks that the presence of a Deputy of the Government controlling the examinations will mend all matters.

The Committee suggest a few improvements in regard to the nurses' home, the salaries, and the long working hours. But in all these matters the fact that any improvements will cost much money is put forward so strongly that we shall not be surprised if the Minister, after reading the report, receives the impression that the matter is too unimportant to spend much money on and puts it aside, never to be looked at any more. This is the only point which roused the Committee to any energy, but an energy which will harm the cause is no proof of much broadness of mind.

Still, this report has some good points. It shows most plainly how deficient the training still is, and supplies us with many good arguments for pleading our cause. Such an official statement of the incompleteness of nurse training, of the necessity for State Registration is sure to win over to our side many doctors in private practice and members of the public who till now always said that *Nosokomos* was exaggerating. It gives us strength to take up again the strife against conservatism, narrow mindedness and autocracy.

I was glad to read in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING that Miss Dock intends to have special reports at the Cologne Congress from those countries where State Registration has been introduced. We intend to translate these reports as soon as possible and send copies to the different training schools.

"Shorter working hours" is at this moment a burning question in our nursing world. One of our University professors made a speech on the subject which roused much indignation among the nurses. The gist of it is that the working hours are not too long. Probationers must realise that they can only learn their profession by working for long hours, which is synonymous with long days in which to learn. Probationers can only show their love of and appreciation to nursing by working long and hard. It is true that many of them are tired and look ill; but there the parents who allowed them to become probationers are at fault. Is not that splendid logic?

And our Matrons' Council adopted some resolutions at its general meeting last spring, where the same things are said.

And then seeing all those girls who are the victims of such narrow reasoning, one feels sad. All nursing work seems so useless when in nursing patients back to health, the nurses become patients in their turn. What profit is that to society?

J. C. VAN LANSCHOT HUBRECHT.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

The King has sent a telegram to Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P., expressing sympathy with him in the illness of his wife, and the hope that soon it may be possible to give a better account of her condition. His Majesty's hope will be echoed by many nurses, in whose work for the organisation of their profession Mrs. Macdonald has always taken a most kind and personal interest.

The Prime Minister's reply to the Earl of Lytton, Chairman of the Conciliation Committee for Women's Suffrage, has given general satisfaction. Lord Lytton wrote:—"May I have your authority for saying that, whatever other Bills dealing with Woman's Suffrage may be introduced into the House of Commons next Session, nothing will relieve the Government of their undertaking to give to the Bill promoted by the Conciliation Committee (a) a day for its second reading should it fail to secure a place in the ballot; (b) 'a week' (as interpreted by your letter to me) for its further stages, if it should pass its second reading?" To which Mr. Asquith replied:—"I have no hesitation in saying that the promises made by, and on behalf of, the Government, in regard to giving facilities for the 'Conciliation Bill,' will be strictly adhered to, both in letter and in spirit."

An interesting wedding which is announced to take place this month is that of Miss Mary Macarthur, Secretary of the Women's Trade Union League, and Mr. William C. Anderson, Chairman of the Independent Labour Party. Miss Macarthur's work is well known, and Mr. Anderson is spoken of as a powerful speaker, a magnetic personality, and a rising hope of his party.

During the recent strikes, says *Votes for Women*, in response to the appeal for special constables several women applied, one woman alone applying at five different police stations, "because," she explained, "it occurred to me that at a crisis like the present there ought to be some use for women in the work, especially as more women have time at their disposal than men." Though received with courtesy, all applications were refused.

Mr. Stanley Portal Hyatt, writing of the women of Rhodesia in his book "Off the Main Track," says:—"The hospital nurses formed a very large proportion of the home-bred women in the country, and I never remember meeting one who was not a lady—clean, sweet and wholesome. Their influence was so good, they pulled so many of us together, that it seemed almost a shame when any of them got married and thus curtailed their power of doing good to the community at large. The country owes them an enormous debt of gratitude, which it will never dream of repaying."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)