

Act. It is doubtful if board and lodging can be reckoned as income for this purpose, but if this is admitted, the nurses in question will be worse off than ever, as income tax will then be demanded of them.

THE IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The monthly meeting of the Committee of the Irish Nurses' Association was held on Saturday, April 6th, at 8 p.m. This was the first meeting which has taken place under the new arrangement by which nurse-members are admitted to these meetings. There was a good attendance considering it was the night before Easter Sunday.

After routine business had been got through, the advisability of starting an Irish Nurses' Friendly Society was discussed. It was decided to do this as soon as possible, and a Provisional Committee was appointed to deal with preliminaries. The following members were asked to form this Committee with full power to act on behalf of the Irish Nurses' Association: Misses Lamont, Huxley, Reed, Hogg, Roberts, Kelly, Cherry, Kearns, Carre, Keogh, Sutton, Butler and Carson Rae.

The first meeting to take place on Wednesday, 10th, at 8 p.m.

THE ELLEN PITFIELD PETITION.

In spite of the holidays, and perhaps in some measure because of them, we have had a very wide response to our Petition for the immediate release of Miss Ellen Pitfield from prison. Indeed, only a callous heart, free to enjoy glorious liberty during the magnificent Easter time, in England's loveliest places, could do so without a thought of pity "upon all prisoners and captives," and especially in relation to those women who are suffering for conscience sake—however the Common Law may deal with their misdemeanours. We thank the matrons and nurses who have at once signed the Petition, and also the many laywomen who have asked for forms.

But in tabulating the signatures we were painfully struck with the fact that, with few exceptions, matrons of large hospitals and the members of their nursing staffs have not added their names and influence to a Petition for the release of a fellow worker and human being *who is dying of cancer in prison!* Let us hope the immediate posts will bring many such signatures, and thus remove any suspicion in the public mind that highly trained and highly placed nurses are indifferent to suffering. Their

names should have been the first to be added to the Petition in the gracious cause of mercy.

We have received many kind letters, one from a West End medical man, who writes:—"Please send me one of the forms of Petition for the release of Nurse Pitfield. As a medical man who always has been an *Anti-Suffragist* I shall take great pleasure in signing this, and also in getting some friends to do the same. Knowing as I do the fearful ravages of this disease, whatever she has done her illness is more than sufficient punishment. I write this more particularly having regard to the terrible mental distress which is engendered by this disease, and which will be, of course, much aggravated by prison life."

We have to thank the Editor of the *Standard* for kindly bringing this Petition before a wide circle of readers, which has aroused warm interest in this most pitiful case and brought us many offers of help.

It is of the utmost importance that this Petition should be presented to the Home Secretary at the earliest possible date, as every hour of imprisonment does grievous injury to the sick woman, who is thus being deprived of her only chance of relief from purgatorial pain, and agony of mind. A Petition slip for signature will be found on page xii. Forms can be signed at the Office of this Journal, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., from whence they can also be obtained by post. Special clerical help is being devoted to the Petition, for which small subscriptions will be gratefully received.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

NIGHTINGALE MEMORIALS.

Three statues of Miss Nightingale have now been decided upon—one for London, one for Liverpool, and one for Derby. Countess Feodora Gleichen, the daughter of the late Prince Victor of Hohenlohe Langenburg, has been commissioned to model a memorial statue which is to be placed in front of the hospital at Derby. It will take the form of a semicircle, with seats round, while the marble figure, some six feet nine inches high, will stand on a stone pedestal in the centre of the semicircle. Florence Nightingale will be depicted as the Lady of the Lamp. The design is of classical simplicity and beauty.

It is eminently fitting that the memorial statues of Miss Nightingale should be the work of women, and we hope the good example in selecting a woman artist for the work by Derby may be followed by London and Liverpool.

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