

nurses to keep the control of their own official organs at all costs.

A PROFESSIONAL POSITION.

We learn from Miss Lyons that the question of Homes for private nurses between their cases is just now being discussed in Melbourne. At present private nurses pay 5s. 6d. per week all the year round for the right of belonging to a home, and the use of "billheads" and telephone. When in residence they pay from 15s. to £1 a week.

Miss Lyons strongly advocates that all such homes should be superintended by trained nurses, both because she considers that the nursing profession should reserve this means of making a livelihood for those nurses who for various reasons cannot undertake active nursing work, and also because of the importance of having doctors' calls and messages taken by a trained nurse.

While in London Miss Lyons has made a point of seeing the Howard de Walden Home belonging to the Nurses' Co-operation, with which she is delighted. "Surely," she says, "those walls can never hear the whisper of a grumble."

BUREAU OF INFORMATION.

It is interesting to learn from Miss Lyons that a Bureau of Information has been opened in Melbourne, at 59, Swanston Street, in charge of Miss Crocker, with the object of enabling nurses to obtain posts in private and public hospitals, and hospitals to obtain nurses. The nurse pays 1s. and the employer 5s. to the Bureau. It is hoped also to supply all information as to visiting and resident nurses, and private hospitals, and to provide a centre to which nurses can apply if they need information, or when visiting Melbourne.

BUSH NURSING.

In regard to Bush nursing, Miss Lyons, who has lived in the Bush, considers it is beset by difficult problems, prominent amongst them the matrimonial one. Indeed, it appears as if a prominent feature of the work is likely to be its success as a matrimonial agency, and as trained nurses make most capable helpmeets, this need not be deplored.

After all, the problems of nursing at the Antipodes appear in the main to be much the same as those in this country, and so long as the nursing profession possesses members so devoted to its interests and so disinterested as Miss Lyons, we do not doubt they will be dealt with, with wisdom and success.

M. B.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

The Annual Conference and Meetings of the National Union of Women Workers will be held at Oxford in the Masonic Buildings from September 30th to October 4th, and a large attendance is expected.

The Annual Dinner of the Society of Women Journalists will be held at the Criterion Restaurant on Saturday, October 2nd. Mrs. Charles Perrin, the President, will be in the Chair, and the presentation of a gift will be made to Mrs. Willoughby Hodgson, the late Hon. Secretary. Her many friends hope she will be well enough by that date to be present. The Annual Meeting will take place at the Society's office, 10, St. Bride's Avenue, E.C., at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, October 6th.

Many prominent members of the British Association attended a women's suffrage meeting in Dundee last week and condemned forcible feeding. Professor Halliburton, of London, said the feeding by forcible means of even criminals would not be tolerated if statesmen knew what it was. The horror and disgust, apart from the physical injury, were a punishment which recalled the worst days of mediæval cruelty. In the *Lancet* forcible feeding is condemned by 177 distinguished medical men of Great Britain as "a severe physical and mental torture." It is the outrage to the "person" which produces so irradicable a sense of wrong, such deep and bitter indignation and resentment amongst prisoners and self-respecting women.

Now that about 1,500 Suffragists have suffered imprisonment in this country in their fight for citizenship, people are beginning to wake up a bit about the conditions of prison life. The description given by Mme. Steinheil of St. Lazare, Paris, where she was kept awaiting her trial for nearly a year, reads more like things as they were in the Middle Ages than in the present day, and it compares very ill with a description of the "Maison Central," the women's prison at Rennes, most interestingly described by a lady correspondent in Sunday's *Observer*. She writes:—

"The first thing that struck me was the absence of bars, the open windows, the air, and the light. My idea of a prison was something sombre and dark. But the sun shone into the huge workrooms, where rows and rows of women in little white caps, blue and white checked linen skirts and fichus, thick knitted stockings and wooden shoes, were bending over their work. This prison, like all others, is conducted on the silent system, and I was prepared to be impressed by the awful stillness of which I had heard so much. But here was noise, the deafening noise of hundreds of sewing

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)