

alone make secure and stable progress all over the world.

Reviewing the inspiration which demands efficient nursing education, Miss Goodrich says: "That our educational system is defective none can dispute; . . . whatever her field, I think we must unanimously admit that the nurse is more entirely excluded from outside interests—social, civic, educational—than the members of almost any other profession, and we cannot but ask wherein lies her power, to what is due this ability to organize so forcefully, progressively, and harmoniously. The nature of our calling, developing as it does all the highest attributes in human nature, unquestionably plays the greatest part; but I am inclined to think that two very potent factors in this development have been certain features of our institutional preparation, features that we are at present striving to modify, if not abolish—the militarism, that splendid drilling in the subordination of self to the machine, and the over-demand in work and responsibility, which is so wonderful a developer of resourcefulness, executive ability, and indomitable courage."

Miss Goodrich is the ardent advocate of such modification; so are we all in theory, and yet, to be quite honest, we must own that we have not yet evolved a system of training which can compare results satisfactorily with that produced by the strict discipline of the past. The system which turned out from poorly educated material fine, forceful, devoted, and successful administrators. The women who lead the great reform movement for higher education, and legal status for the units of the profession, even to this day.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL MEETING.

Members of the Matrons' Council will leave Euston on Saturday morning for Wigan by the 10 a.m. train, on which a carriage will be reserved and labelled for "Miss Mollett's Party." The return week-end fare is £1 1s. 7d., available for return to London by any train on Sunday. No doubt there will be a very merry party.

THE COOKERY EXHIBITION.

The 23rd Universal Cookery and Food Exhibition was opened on Tuesday, at the Royal Horticultural Hall, S.W., by the Duchess of Teck. The exhibits of principal interest to nurses, *i.e.*, the invalid trays (Section III., Class 38), are on view only from October 31st to November 2nd, but there are 45 entries in this class from nurses in London hospitals and infirmaries.

NURSING AND NATIONAL INSURANCE.

As the Insurance Act comes into practical force, it is more and more detested by the nursing profession as a whole, especially by trained nurses in private practice, and many have signed a Petition for exemption.

No class of worker has been more unfairly treated under this Act than trained nurses. Classed as domestic and not as professional workers, they are compelled to pay for a pittance towards treatment in sickness which has been generously given them, as associate workers, by the medical profession as a whole. Their relation with the medical profession has thus been rudely shaken. Moreover, as trained nurses have no legal status, they were denied just representation on the Advisory Committee by Parliament under the Act, and most unjustly discriminated against by the National Insurance Commissioners when the Advisory Committee was formed.

Every other class of worker compulsorily insured—male and female—together with every class of employer was given through its Unions and Societies direct representation. Trained Nurses were alone excluded. Why?

For the following reason, without a doubt:—

Because nursing was made a benefit under the Act, and the Commissioners were determined that nurses themselves should have no power to define the standard of the nursing given to the insured sick.

Already the disastrous result of no representation is evident.

County Nursing Associations, governed entirely by lay social influence, are claiming the monopoly of supplying nursing to the poor insured sick, and the standard of their workers we know to be totally inadequate to meet these needs justly.

The nursing profession, devoid of legal status through State Registration, realises bitterly its impotence in this question of national health. Every species of quack may be employed, and so long as they are cheap they will be employed by lay monopolists, lay Health Committees, and ignorant Friendly Societies.

Here is a question of great national importance, in which the dependent poor, compelled to insure, are at the mercy of those supplying inefficient nursing. Who is going to rise up and instruct them and make them claim what is their just due?

We have seen how manfully the registered medical profession have stood together, not only

previous page

next page