

giving to the question of overwork among workers in industry in order that the present grievous destruction of the health of nurses may cease."

The Chairman explained that although there was overwork in this country, the resolution was specially applicable to the present conditions in Germany.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

In the President's report the success of the meeting at Cologne was referred to briefly, as it has been so fully reported in the official organ of the Council, *THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*.

The work of affiliated societies was notified. First, that of the Matrons' Council, which had held several successful meetings in the country—which provided an opportunity for Matrons to confer together on questions of interest to the profession at large, and to dispense hospitality. The Society for State Registration of Nurses continued to claim and work for legal status for trained nurses, and the Bill would be brought before Parliament until time was granted for its discussion, when there was little doubt it would be passed. In this connection it was stated in the Report: "There is no doubt that the present Government, professedly Liberal in its policy, is averse to legislation organising the work of women, and also that adverse social influence is employed against the Bill, both privately and through the subsidised press.

"On the other hand, a large number of Members of Parliament are in favour of justice to nurses and the sick, and it is through their influence and support that we must hope to gain just conditions.

"The lack of the adoption of professional standards, through a defined curriculum recognised by the authority of the State, is daily becoming more prejudicial to trained nurses. This is accentuated by the fact that the Central Midwives Board has the power of maintaining a standard for midwives under Act of Parliament, and if any women are too ignorant to be able to pass the examination of that Board after three months' training, or too criminal to be allowed to remain on the Midwives' Roll when they have gained admission to it, they can, and do, practise with impunity as "ordinary nurses," since there is no legal qualification for a trained nurse. The expression "ordinary nurse" presumably includes many women not trained in the duties of a nurse at all, but the result is that these ignorant and criminal women are confused in the public mind with highly skilled nurses, and the three months' midwife is regarded as having a higher status than the nurse who has spent three years in obtaining a thorough training in her profession.

"The evil of the depreciation of standards is further accentuated by the fact that Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, which was founded to provide specially qualified district nurses, and to maintain a certain uniform standard of efficiency throughout the United Kingdom, has departed from this standard, and, in addition

to thoroughly trained and efficient Queen's Nurses, recognises and inspects as district nurses women with only a six months' training in general nursing. But, as they require these women to have six months' training in midwifery and to qualify as certified midwives, in the rural districts of England and Wales the "nursing" of the sick poor is passing largely into the hands of midwives with a few months' training in general nursing, who undercut the certificated nurse. The result of this suicidal policy is that now there is a shortage of well-educated certificated nurses for district nursing work, and a difficulty in obtaining a highly trained and cultured class of women to act as Queen's Nurses among the poor.

"The lack of a definite standard of training is also apparent in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, in which in order to meet the now insufficient system of training and certification after two years' work, still in force at the London Hospital, the generally accepted standard of certification after three years' training in the wards has not yet been adopted for this Royal Military Service, and the three senior posts in the Service have been given to ladies holding the inferior qualification.

NURSING IN WAR.

"The lack of legal qualifications for the trained nurse, and consequently her lack of representation on committees concerned with the care of the sick, is exemplified in the attitude of the British Red Cross Society to trained nurses during the present war in the Near East. The Committee, which does not include any trained nurses in its members, being mainly composed of medical men and peeresses, calculates its expenditure at £1,000 a week, but it has not voluntarily sent one trained woman nurse to the seat of war, nor has it any corps of nurses, organised in time of peace, corresponding to the Territorial Service for home duty, upon which it can call. The six nurses from the London Hospital, and the six members of the Army Nursing Service Reserve, have all been sent out in response to Royal commands, and in this terrible crisis of war, pestilence and famine, the trained nurses of this country find themselves in the humiliating position of being prevented from offering their skilled services to the Balkan States, Greece and Turkey, through the official and national channel of aid.

NO REPRESENTATION ON ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

"The National Insurance Act touches the pocket of every trained nurse in the country earning a small salary. Nevertheless, we find a determined opposition on the part of the English and Irish Commissioners to grant to trained nurses that right of direct and independent representation upon the Advisory Committees in England and Ireland which has been granted to every other class of worker, and also to employers. Nor, when the Bill was still before Parliament, could any clause be inserted ensuring to the insured sick that the nurses supplied to them, and for whose services they will pay, shall have had a definite

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