

condition of affairs, when a *simple question* at a public meeting, may not be asked without brutal assault. It is high time these assaults were contested in a court of law.

The Irish Women's Franchise League have sent a letter to Mr. Asquith requesting him to receive a deputation of Irish woman suffragists on his visit to Dublin. They remind him that when he spoke to their Irish representatives at a deputation that he received in London in November, 1911, he said that the case of Irish women needed special consideration. They ask him, therefore, to take this opportunity of hearing Irish women in the capital of their own land put their special claim before him to be included in the Home Rule Bill.

Recognising that the demand for trained nursery nurses is largely in excess of the supply, the Stockbridge Committee of the Edinburgh Day Nurseries Association have recently purchased and equipped a house—9, St. Bernard's Crescent—as a training centre, and recently a meeting of those interested in the project was held at the house, when an explanation of the scheme was given. Dr. Dingwall Fordyce, who occupied the chair, said that the school was the first of its kind in Scotland.

One of the most celebrated women in Italy, says the *Standard*, who is fighting in the cause of women's independence and political enfranchisement, is Signora Italia Garibaldi, granddaughter of the famous patriot, General Giuseppe Garibaldi. Signora Garibaldi, who is a native of Rome, identified herself early with the woman's movement. As a member of the Council of Italian Women, she made a thorough investigation into the conditions of women's labour, and found them in great need of reform, the conditions in the south being particularly unfavourable. At the present time she is lecturing in the United States in the interests of the working women of Italy.

READ.

"The Life of Cardinal Newman. By Wilfrid Ward.

"The Daughters of Ishmael." By Reginald Wright Kauffman.

"Padre Synacio." By Owen Wister.

COMING EVENTS.

July 5th.—Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives. Annual Gathering, 4, Princes Gardens, S.W., 3 p.m.

July 8th.—Irish Nurses' Association, Lucan. Cyclists' Meet, Park Gate, 4 p.m.

July 10th.—Pass the Bill Committee (White Slave Traffic) Meeting, Kensington Town Hall, 8.15 p.m. Admission free.

July 11th.—Guy's Hospital, S.E. Garden Party. 3 p.m.

July 16th.—The Bishop of London "At Home" to members of the Nurses' Missionary League, Fulham Palace, 3.30-6.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

PRIVATE NURSES AND THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BILL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I note that the Chancellor considers us all actuated by political bias if we venture to disapprove of the effect of the National Insurance Act upon our special conditions. It seems to me it would be very extraordinary if millions of workers, especially women who are governed entirely without their consent, did not criticise a measure which was drawn by men for industrial male *outside* workers, and compulsorily thrust upon professional women *inside* workers, whose conditions and interests cannot be compared. The principle of National Insurance may be wise, but the flat rate, and the compulsion for all on the same conditions, whether beneficial or not, is both unwise and unjust, and no class of workers will suffer more than the class to which I belong, the private co-operative nurse. Once again a great nail is hammered into the coffin in which liberty to work without paying the middleman (the hospital committee or proprietor) must ultimately be buried.

Under the Act the hospitals and institutions which make money out of their private nursing staffs are compelled to insure their servants—for that is what the nurses legally are—and it only means a little less profit, for which I have personally no regret; but the co-operative nurse not only has to pay her threepence tax, but of course she also pays through the committee of management, the employer's contribution also; that is to say, if she hopes, through the central office, to continue to get work.

In the present temper of the public, is it presumable that they will get nurses from a co-operation if they are to be classed as employers? I am very sure they will not be worried and bothered over insurance cards and stamp sticking, so the result will be that all our work will be given to hospital committees and proprietors, who are compelled to stick the stamps and pay for the same themselves, of course out of the profit made on the nurses' work. If we are to continue to get any work at all we must by some means pay (as hospital private nurses will practically do) our own double insurance, as our societies are not profit making businesses. How can this be done?—that is the question. Hawk round a threepenny card like a "char" I will not!

Yours truly,

A VOTELESS AND HELPLESS WOMAN WORKER.

(We quite agree with our correspondent that the public who employ private nurses will not pay the

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