

body appointed by the State," so that the constitutional demand made by trained nurses for a quarter of a century for the organisation of their professional education, in support of their conscientious efforts on behalf of the sick public, may be rewarded by the security afforded by legal status.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Secretary.

Copies of the Resolution have also been sent to the majority of the Governors, to every member of the House of Lords and the House of Commons, and to each member not resident abroad of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. The statement has been made over and over again by the spokesmen of the anti-registration party that nurses enjoy under their benevolent control absolute freedom of conscience and of speech—a statement which is known to be untrue. It was thought well, therefore, that our legislators should know the truth, and realise the reactionary policy which emanates from the Central Hospital Council for London so far as nurses are concerned, and which is now being enforced for the first time at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The question of whether the Governors of the large London Hospitals, or the Central Hospital Council for London, are to inspire the policy and manage the Nursing Schools attached to these institutions for the future, is one of vital interest to the nursing staffs, and is also of far-reaching importance to the sick public at large.

We are informed that the Staff Nurses of St. Bartholomew's Hospital have appealed to the Committee, through the Matron, Miss McIntosh, on the question at issue. We sincerely hope it is true.

NURSES' CHORAL AND SOCIAL LEAGUE.

The Nurses' Choral and Social League will hold its Annual Concert at the Town Hall, Kensington, on Tuesday, the 18th inst., at 8 p.m. The choir of over 200 members will be conducted by Dr. W. H. Hickox, F.R.C.O. The proceeds go towards the funds of the League, and tickets, at 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s., can be obtained from the President, Mrs. Carreg-McCowan, 50, Queen's Gate, S.W. We have no doubt the Hall will be crowded, as the occasion and programme are unusually attractive.

IMPRESSIONS ON NURSING IN THE UNITED STATES.

III.

It was my good fortune to renew or to make acquaintance with many superintendents of nursing and heads of the nursing world in the States. But, owing to the shortness of my stay and the urgency of my other work, I only succeeded in actually making personal acquaintance with six hospitals—six of the best, as I need hardly tell you: in New York, the Bellevue, the Sloan, the Rockefeller, the Presbyterian; in Boston, the Massachusetts General; in Baltimore, the Johns Hopkins. I do not mean that I was not inside others, but these six were the ones in which I was enabled, through the kindness of the superintendents, to see and hear and know and discuss the methods and workings.

As for lost opportunities, I ceased to dare think of them; but if I regretted one thing more than another in this connection it was that I was obliged to leave without seeing any one of the great mental hospitals.

In this paper I propose to note some of the matters which appealed to me most in the nursing departments and arrangements of the hospitals. On the whole, the most salient point seemed to me the wonderful organization of the nursing work. Organization in all work is a very striking feature over there. The same holds good of charitable effort. The annual report of the Association of Catholic Charities in New York, with the digest attached, is a wonderful record of successful organizing. And this power of organization, having its centre in the office of the superintendent of nurses, with its telephone and its typewriter in constant use, spreads through every department of the hospital. The porter's office shows it, the wards show it, the carefully kept case records show it, the absence of rush shows it, the well-appointed nurses' dining halls, with their many small tables and excellent food, show it. You feel it throughout the whole place. Foundation necessities are thoroughly realized by this practical people, and organization is first amongst them.

The social service side of nursing is another matter which is now entirely recognized as a part of hospital duty, more especially in relation to the out-patient department. It must long have been obvious to the thinking nurse that a great part of the good attempted to be done in the out-patient department is counteracted, if not made wholly useless, by the conditions under which the patients live. Plenty of new

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)