

out on somewhat different lines. We think such Homes should be built, and not adapted, and let each nurse have her own little flat, and street door, on the delightful plan of the sweet little homes built at Bournville, with a large green in the centre, and why not a bit of garden at the back? As the King Edward Homes for Nurses are in part a charity, let the contributions be generous, and do away with the system of supervision and restrictions. The one thing a tired nurse longs for upon retirement is privacy and independence. As more Homes for Nurses are to be arranged, let them be organised on quite a different basis to that at Clapham. However good a matron may be, it is the fact of officialism in any form which matters, and substitutes the institution life for that of a real home.

Speaking at the quarterly general and special Court of Governors of the London Hospital, the Hon. Sydney Holland, Chairman, said, in referring to the Insurance Act, that "the whole thing was at present in the pot—it might be the melting pot for all he knew. . . . The present state of things could not go on for ever. They were spending £900 a year in insuring the nurses, who did not want the Act at all."

Considering the large profits—many thousands of pounds annually, made by the London Hospital out of its Private Nurses' Business, it would have been more accurate to have put the case thus:—"The nurses under the Insurance Act are taxed to the extent of £900 a year, which they are compelled to pay—although they do not want or need the Act at all." What can be more unjust than that these hard-working women should be taxed without their consent for "benefits" to which they object. Here is a case where taxation without representation is specially tyrannous.

Frankly, is not this a case of the pot calling the kettle black? Clearly the Chancellor thinks he has a right to "butt in" and take toll of this profitable bit of trading, and Mr. Holland should be the last man to blame him. The one aspect of the case which is quite irrefutable is that the woman pays, and pays excessively, as she always will do until she has the vote, and can help to make the laws which control the profits of her own labour.

The case of Warham v. Selfridge, which has been widely reported, will, we have no doubt, prevent genuine buyers frequenting that

emporium. Indeed, it becomes increasingly difficult to get served there, owing to the thousands of idle women and children who frequent it for no other reason than as a rare show. Only last week a much respected matron was inspecting petticoats at a counter, when she heard one quite young assistant remark to another, "If you don't take care, one of those skirts will be missing by-and-by." Naturally the lady in question departed in high dudgeon. She was not in uniform—or no doubt the offensive remark might have had some justification.

In her appeal for that most excellent institution, the Sarah Acland District Nurses at Oxford, Miss Katherine H. Robinson, the Hon. Secretary, proves how necessary it is that district work should be undertaken by the well trained and highly skilled only. She writes:—"To very many the term 'District Nurse' is but a vague expression, merely suggesting a being who flits from house to house attending to minor ailments, and speaking a word in season whenever possible. But how different is the real being, who as part of her daily task has to struggle with pneumonia, cancer in its most terrible forms, all varieties of tuberculosis, and rheumatic fever—these are the illnesses which are nursed at home, and which in the 'case books' occur with painful and monotonous frequency." More than 1,000 patients pass annually through the skilled hands of the Sarah Acland Nurses—and as the majority of them are women and children or uninsured persons, the benefits obtainable through the Insurance Act do not affect them. We hope the appeal will meet with generous support.

At the annual meeting of the Dorset County Home for Nurses held at the County Hospital, Dorchester, we are glad to observe that the Chairman of Committee, Captain J. E. Acland, said that it was impossible for the nurses to look after the patients and do housework as well, and he suggested the rules should be altered, so that nurses should not live in the same house as the patients.

Dr. Morrice said he thought they ought to take a firm stand with regard to domestic work, otherwise they would not be able to maintain the standard of training that they had aimed at. Nurses would not train if they found they had to perform duties outside their proper work. They knew it was hard sometimes for a man to

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)