

must obey one commander. On their obedience depends success or defeat. Their obedience springs not from ignorance, but from a thorough course of instruction, and an intellectual conviction that unity of action is the sure road to success. This military obedience is carried out also in our Training School work, not what some call "blind obedience," but eyes, head, and hands trained to work in unison with a kind and sympathetic heart.

As a proof that Sisters all through the United States are making progress in modern methods of nursing, we may state that Sisters of Mercy and members of many other Sisterhoods come to the Mercy Hospital, Chicago, to learn our methods of hospital management, and also how we conduct our Training School. To all who come we freely extend a friendly, helping hand, and invite them to light their lamps from our torch, which only burns the brighter by shedding abroad its enlightening rays.

Let us, dear Sisters of the Nursing profession, rejoice in this: That He has promised the Kingdom of Heaven to those who labour in His vineyard, for has He not said: "Whosoever you did to the least of My brethren you did it unto Me; therefore enter into the joy of your Lord."

### THE IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association was held in Dublin on March 17th. There was a large and representative attendance.

Miss Shuter, the President, was in the chair, and presented the annual report.

The voting for office bearers for 1913 then took place, and the following were elected:—Vice-President, Miss Butler; Hon. Secretary, Miss Reeves; Finance Committee, Miss Ramsden, Mrs. Manning, Miss Holden.

A cordial vote of thanks to Miss Shuter, the outgoing President, for the admirably just and able manner in which she had conducted affairs during her year of office, was proposed by Miss Carson-Rae, seconded by Sister Carre, and carried by acclamation. Miss Shuter made a suitable reply, thanking the members and officers for their hearty co-operation, and then vacated the chair, which was taken by Miss Huxley, President for 1913.

Owing to the 17th March falling this year in Holy Week, the usual social part of the meeting had to be postponed.

### THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

The "bill to regulate the qualifications of trained nurses and to provide for their registration" was presented by the Right Honourable R. C. Munro-Ferguson and read a first time on March 18th. It is influentially backed by Members on all sides of the House.

*Liberal.*—Dr. Addison, Mr. Annan Bryce, Mr. J. Duncan Millar, Mr. Percy Alden.

*Unionist.*—Viscount Wolmer, Sir George Younger, the Right Honourable Charles Scott Dickson, K.C., Mr. J. F. Remnant, and Mr. P. Kerr-Smiley (Irish).

*Labour.*—Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald.

*Nationalist.*—Mr. W. Field.

The Bill is promoted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, and has the support of the eight important Societies affiliated together in that committee, with Lord Amphill as chairman, representing over 30,000 medical practitioners and trained nurses.

### UNBLUSHING PLAGIARISM.

As we go to press we have received from an anonymous source an announcement of the subjects to be discussed at a Nursing and Midwifery Conference to be held in London, in April, simultaneously with the exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Hall. We are informed by Mr. Ernest Schofield, secretary of the Exhibition, that its organisation is quite distinct.

Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery, yet the unblushing plagiarism which characterises the programme which we have received, on which appears nearly every subject to be considered at the Conference of the National Council of Nurses in Dublin, in June, is surely an unethical proceeding which cannot commend itself to some of the Matrons who have given their names to the committee.

The only subject already selected by the National Council which has been omitted is very significant, namely, the State Registration of Nurses. On the other hand, it is even more significant that a scheme for the registration of hospital certificates will be put forward, no doubt an attempt to resuscitate the principle of the Official Directory of Nurses Bill, which deprived trained nurses of all power of self-government, and which was rejected by the House of Lords in 1908.

The resuscitation of this dangerous scheme should sound a note of warning throughout the nursing profession, and must be most carefully watched by it.

Trained nurses must be alive to the dangers of schemes put forward by the lay managers of the anti-registration press, who are really promoting the Conference.

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