

payment for the car, and had to interview the proprietor, and return to town by train.

In view of the frauds which are now perpetrated on nursing institutions, to say nothing of the dangers of the White Slave Traffic, it should be an invariable rule that nurses should never accompany strangers in motors or taxis.

A Sub-Committee has been appointed by the Association of Approved Societies to confer with existing Nursing Organizations, and to report to the Committee as to a scheme for the nursing of insured persons. Unless some just scheme is agreed upon there is little doubt that Local Committees will be satisfied with semi-trained nurses—who are content to undersell qualified women. And as trained nurses are so terribly apathetic where their professional standards are concerned, they will for once have to arouse themselves unless they are content to be excluded from this branch of nursing, and see it done by the semi-trained for a low wage—a very serious condition of affairs both for the sick and the nursing profession.

The Association has also adopted resolutions (1) urging the abolition of four Commissions, and that the administration of the Act should be in the hands of one administrative body, and (2) that the postal regulations should be relaxed in respect of postage of cards to and from members, and that Approved Societies should be exempt from Stamp Duty in general.

Has the cost of living gone up? This question aroused discussion at the Metropolitan Asylums Board last Saturday in connection with the shortage of nurses, which, according to Canon Sprankling, Chairman of the Hospital Committee, was not confined to the metropolitan area, but existed all over the country. An advertisement for nurses had recently been inserted by the Board, in which a higher salary was offered, but not a single application for the appointment was received.

An increase of wages of the staff was approved by the Board at this meeting which will amount ultimately to over £20,000 per annum.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Doncaster District Nursing Association in the Mansion House, Miss Montagu, of Melton Hall, described herself as a health visitor—a curious hybrid—a combination of sanitary inspector, maternity nurse, and a rather extra-good charwoman. That was her employment, and she could speak with the utmost confidence of the unspeakable value of the trained district nurse. She said advisedly trained because she had suffered severely from those who were not trained. There were places where they thought it was a good thing to get a district nurse straight from hospital, where, perhaps, she would not have been allowed to give medicine to the patients. Then she was turned loose on

to a district where she had absolute power, and she did not know what to do. An untrained district nurse was an absolute danger to the community. The nurses of that Association seemed to do an extraordinary amount of good work. To make 7,272 visits meant ten a day for each nurse, which was quite enough, for district work was most fearfully brain-fagging.

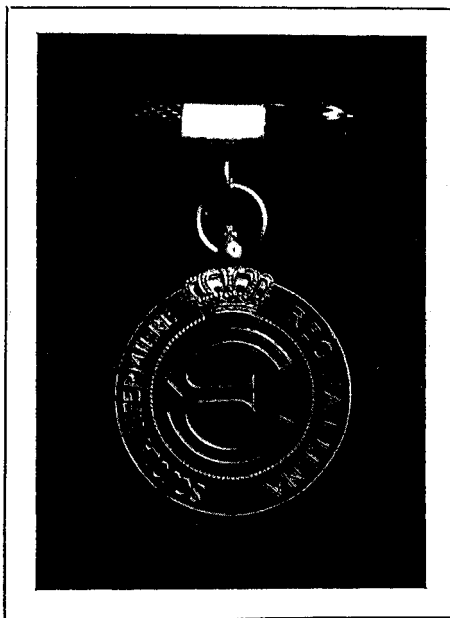
In commending the Association, Miss Montagu said it was entirely unsectarian, for they did not inquire into the character of the people whom they served, whether sinners or saints. Her experience, and it is certainly not unique, was that

sinners usually got a deal more than the saints.

However much institutional training a nurse may have had, additional experience in the homes of the poor before she is permitted full control as a district nurse is certainly indispensable.

The Committee of the Society for Providing Nurses for the Sick Poor in Belfast have for several years been anxious to obtain a large home for their nurses, as they believe the work could be more efficiently carried on if all the nurses lived in a central home. This wish has been realised, and a large house in Botanic Avenue has been bought. The total cost, including furnishing, will be about £2,000.

We hope the necessary funds will soon be raised for this useful purpose.



REGINA ELENA MEDAL.

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