

The question is, are the 700 women holding certificates of three years' training to be "menaced" by the opposition of the one placed in power over them, trained on the superficial two years' system, from the London Hospital?

The 700 trained women who demand this reform desire to give the sick public a guarantee of their efficiency. The one woman with a short-term certificate opposes it.

Here you have the "pro" and the "con" of the registration contest in a nutshell.

It is a "formidable" lesson; let us hope the Government will duly appreciate it.

#### SCARCITY OF HOSPITAL NURSES.

Dr. Chapple recently asked the President of the Local Government Board in the House of Commons whether he was aware that hospitals under the Metropolitan Asylums Board had had to turn patients away because of the dearth of nurses, and that difficulty had been found by many Poor-law guardians in securing nurses; and, if so, could he say what steps he proposed to take to increase the supply or to attract the best class of women to the profession. Mr. Burns answered: The Metropolitan Asylums Board were, I understand, apprehensive that they might have to restrict the admission of certain classes of infectious cases owing to the difficulty in obtaining nurses, but I am glad to learn that it is now hoped that no such limitation will be necessary. The shortage of nurses which is, I believe, being generally experienced is due to causes which are beyond my control.

Dr. Chapple: Is the right honourable gentleman aware that in those countries where State registration of nurses has been established it has had the effect of raising the status and dignity of the profession and attracting the best type of women? Mr. Burns: I cannot believe that either registration or classification is a testimony as to character or fitness.

Mr. Glyn-Jones: If a dearth of nurses exists is it not likely to be increased by the sanatoria set up under the Insurance Act, and will the right honourable gentleman take such steps as are open to him to deal with it? Mr. Burns: The temporary dearth of nurses is due to the National Insurance Act, the demand for nurses in sanatoria, and the large increase in the number of nursing homes and similar institutions. I am very glad to say that the deficiency is being supplied.

Nurses, and the sick whom they serve, are fortunate to have secured the sympathy and effective assistance of so honourable and courageous a champion as Dr. Chapple has proved to be.

### THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council will be held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Saturday, 24th inst., at 3.30 p.m. After the Meeting there will be Tea. There are several items of interest on the agenda, and the beautiful new Banner will be on view.

#### LEAGUE NEWS.

A very interesting General Meeting of the League of St. John's House Nurses was held on Thursday, May 15th. It being the triennial election of the President and Executive Committee, Sister Naomi, Sister Superior of the House, was elected President, and appointed as Officers Miss L. Baker Vice-President, and Miss Seignoir Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, in place of Miss Burr, who has acted as Hon. Secretary since the foundation of the League twelve years ago:

It was determined to send a small maternity exhibit to the Nursing Exhibition to be held in Dublin. Miss Breay kindly consented to act there as the representative of the League.

It was also decided that each member should be asked to contribute a day's pay to the Nurses' International Memorial to Florence Nightingale.

The benefit of the Benevolent Fund is now extended to past members of the League.

The financial condition of the League was reported as satisfactory—the usual condition of women's societies.

Miss Burr and Miss Collins were re-elected as delegates to the National Council of Trained Nurses, and Miss H. Hawkins to the Society for State Registration.

Hearty votes of thanks were accorded Miss Baker, the retiring President, and Miss Burr, after which, amid the sound of teacups, the news of the day was discussed.

M. BURR, *Hon. Sec.*

#### A MOST SAD EVENT.

We deeply regret to record the very tragic death of Dean Webster, of the Chapel Royal, Dublin, who died suddenly last Saturday, on the Malahide golf course. Mrs. Webster, and her sister Miss Patton, have been devoting themselves enthusiastically to organizing the Nursing Pageant Procession to appear at the Conference Reception on June 3rd, and their sorrow will have the sincere sympathy of Irish nurses, amongst whom they have many friends.

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