

of the employment, she was entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Mrs. Dickie then explained the general principles under which nurses were insurable under the National Insurance Act.

DISCUSSION.

Miss V. Thurstan remarked, in speaking of the law as it affected nurses, that all that nurses had to do with the laws of the land was to obey them. Neither they nor any of their sex had a voice in making the laws, or in choosing the men who made them. A "nurse" was not even recognised by the law, and if she came under any category it was as Mrs. Dickie pointed out, that of master and servant. Women were told to keep to their homes and rock the cradle, and when Bills were introduced into Parliament—such as those now on the Statute Book as the Midwives Act and the Children Act—which directly affected the rocking of the cradle, they had no share at all in the making of these laws. Nurses did national service—service for their country. They were not only consolers of and ministers to the sick, but they were also apostles of health, and teachers of the laws of sanitation. Those who legislated for them did not, however, recognise this service. Nurses desired from Parliament a law to protect their good name, their fair reputation. At present to belong to the nursing profession was like wearing a white garment which had been smirched in the mire. Immoral women might ply their arts in the nurses' uniform, under cover of their good reputation; nursery maids with towzled hair and dirty strings might walk out in it with their soldiers; women with a few weeks' training might do it, go out private nursing, and take full fees, and there was no redress. She also mentioned the case of a lady recently made a J.P., who adopted nursing uniform because she found it "opened every door." But we would demand from our legislators that they should recognise our ancient and noble profession. We would go on till they did. We should have gained this recognition before if our legitimate wish had not been frustrated over and over again by lay people, knowing little of nursing, and entirely misrepresenting the whole position. In conclusion Miss Thurstan said she appeared to have diverged from the question under consideration to that of State Registration, but it was really the key to the whole position.

Miss Roberts, Treasurer of the Nurses' Insurance Society of Ireland, said that private nurses working on their own account found a difficulty in getting their insurance cards stamped by their employers. These employers should understand that private nurses were just as much insurable as labourers and domestic servants.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, as President of the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society, England, spoke of the difficulty of obtaining just laws for women. The House of Lords had decided that a woman was not "a person." The Insurance Act was drafted entirely in the interests of out-working men, and in-working women such as

trained nurses had been lumped together with agricultural labourers; naturally their interests were not in any way identical. The majority of nurses detested the Act.

Contracts between hospital committees and probationers were not fair. The former could discharge at a moment's notice; thus the nurses' position was more insecure than that of ward-maids, who had the right to a month's notice, or in lieu of it a month's wages and board wages. Until women helped to make the laws they would discriminate unjustly against them.

Miss Musson raised the question of whether probationers not earning money came under the provisions of the National Insurance Act, and, Mrs. Dickie having replied, the conference adjourned.

RESIGNATION.

The resignation of Miss Davies, Matron of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, will surprise many and cause much regret. Miss Davies, who was trained at King's College Hospital, London, was afterwards Assistant Matron at University College Hospital, won for herself the reputation of a good organiser and Matron at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, a reputation she has maintained at St. Mary's, where she has done much for the development of the nurse-training school. Miss Davies is also Principal Matron of No. 2 City of London Territorial Hospital.

We regret to learn that Miss Davies is at present on the sick list, but hope that with rest her health may be fully restored.

PRESENTATION.

Miss Knowles, Matron of the Hospital for Consumptives at Armley, Leeds, who has been appointed to a similar position at the Leeds Public Dispensary, has been presented by the patients of the institution at Armley and their friends with a silver sugar basin and tongs, by the nursing staff with a silver cream jug, and by the servants with a silver flower vase.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Lewes Branch is very desirous of inaugurating the Union throughout the county, and with this object the Committee will be very glad to receive applications for membership from any nurse living in the county. It will then be possible as membership increases to arrange affiliated branches in the most convenient centres, so that members can obtain the greatest advantage from the Union. Any application for membership will be gladly received, and information given by the Branch Secretary, Miss Farrant, 14, Bradford Road, Lewes.

A General Meeting has been arranged for Lewes on June 27th, when an address on Tuberculosis will be given, and the members afterwards entertained at the Sanatorium. There will be two more meetings during the year, the subjects of which will be decided by the Committee later.

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