

NURSES AND THE INSURANCE ACT.

On Monday last a meeting was held at Winchester House, E.C., when it was decided to form an Association of Approved Societies to protect the interests of all classes of insured persons. In supporting the movement, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick pointed out that there was no provision in the Act to provide for an efficient standard of nursing for the insured sick, and it was most important that their interests should be protected in this direction—or a very shoddy standard of nursing might be thrust on them by ignorant Insurance Committees. A motion by Miss Chrystal Macmillan, that not less than four women should be elected on to the Provisional Committee was outvoted by the large majority of men present; but ultimately Mrs. Fenwick, to look after nursing interests, and Mrs. Erskine Loch were elected on to the Committee, which was directed to prepare a constitution for submission to a further meeting on April 4th.

A NURSES' DEFENCE UNION.

Any of our readers who wish to hear further of Mr. J. S. Pollitt's suggested scheme to form a National Association of Nurses should communicate with him at the County Bank House, Blackburn. In our opinion no National Association of Nurses will succeed until a trained nurse is defined by State authority. What is needed at the present time is a Union of Nurses for self-protection. Such a Union, if formed, would in no way duplicate work already done by other societies of nurses, and would be needed as much as at present even if nurses were registered. Recent events have proved that nurses are in a very helpless position. Such a Union, if thoroughly well managed, would be exceedingly useful. But have nurses either the energy or desire to form and manage a Defence Union? We wonder!

PROGRESS IN GERMANY.

Our German cousins are not allowing the grass to grow under their feet. The best bit of news is that the Leipzig *Frauen Hochschule* is now open, where the course available for the nurses is much on the lines of those so successful at Teachers' College, New York. The first class numbers five nurses, and Sister Agnes Karll is to deliver a series of lectures on nursing history. No doubt in time she will complete her monumental work for the progress of nursing in Germany by translating the third

and fourth volumes of "A History of Nursing," just published. The first and second volumes, translated into German by her, have already a very wide sale in the Fatherland. Apropos of this wholesome thirst for knowledge, the Japanese delegates to the Cologne Congress, when working at St. Thomas' in London a few weeks later, were astounded that here in England the nurses of Miss Nightingale's hospital knew nothing of the History, and had never seen it! In Japan it is likely to become a standard work.

NURSES' SOCIAL UNION IN SOMERSET.

The Somerset Branches of the N.S.U. are this month holding meetings in their various centres for the purpose of electing their new committees and officials for the year 1913. These meetings are being well attended, and in many instances Miss Symonds, the new County Organiser, has been able to be present and make acquaintance with the many members. The beautiful illuminated address and sketch of the bureau presented to Miss Joseph on her retirement from the post of County Organiser, which she has so ably filled, were on view, and a most grateful letter of thanks from her was read.

The Bridport Branch met at the Girls' Club, 9, Castle Street (by kind permission of the committee) on Friday, January 10th. After the business had been transacted, a most interesting and instructive demonstration-lecture on Invalid Cookery was given by Miss du Sautoy, late superintendent S.C.N. Association and Inspector of Midwives.

The Taunton Branch held their annual meeting on January 11th, at 16, Elm Grove, by the kind invitation of Miss du Sautoy. After the business had been transacted, Mr. A. Sweet, solicitor, opened a discussion on some points of law as they affect nurses. Papers on "Agreements and Contracts," "Libel and Slander," "Wrongful Dismissal," and "The Bribery and Corruption Act," written by experts for the N.S.U., were read and explained by Mr. Sweet. As Miss du Sautoy was shortly leaving to take up the post of Inspector under the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute in Wales, a warm vote of thanks was passed to her for the help she has rendered to the N.S.U.

The annual meeting of the Weston-super-Mare Branch was held at the Club Room on January 14th, when a very satisfactory balance-sheet was passed, the treasurer having a balance of £5 17s. 8d. in hand. Much appreciation was shown for the help Mrs. Gibbs, the local organiser, has given to the branch. She was unanimously and heartily asked to continue in the post.

After tea a small sub-committee was elected and notice was given of Dr. Marsden's lecture on January 28th at 3.30 p.m. A lecture by Miss Symonds has been promised at an early date.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)