

report next week. The lack of discipline in the home was put forth as the principal factor with which those training nurses had to contend, if they failed to produce the high type of nurse demanded by the public.

### THE TRAINED WOMEN NURSES' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

The First Annual Meeting of the T.W.N.F.S. will be held in London on Thursday, December 4th, at which a few alterations in the Constitution will be proposed for the approval of the Insurance Commissioners. It is hoped the members will show real personal interest in their own Society, as the Report will show that the "friendly" spirit has inspired the work of the Committee throughout. It will also prove that women are quite capable of managing their own financial affairs economically and yet successfully. The Society has already won a good reputation for prompt and generous payment of claims, with as little irritating bureaucratic interference as possible.

#### UNGENEROUS TREATMENT.

We have been surprised to learn that the claims of sick nurses when warded as hospital patients have been disputed, and payment refused by some societies in which nurses, trained and untrained, are insured. We do not believe the Act can be thus interpreted with justice, and the T.W.N.F.S. has from the first paid, and will continue to do so, the sick claims of nurses during the time they are warded. The sum is small, but is a welcome help to the nurse in hospital, where she has many little expenses, such as personal washing, &c., to meet.

#### NO DIFFICULTY IN TRANSFERRING.

Also we learn that a great fuss is made by some secretaries about their members transferring to other societies. There need be none, and nurses should realise they have a perfect right to transfer if they choose, and the method of doing so is quite simple. All that is necessary is that a Form for the purpose, which the secretary of every society must keep, should be applied for, filled in, and forwarded to the secretary of the society to which the nurse may wish to transfer, so that her application can be considered by the Committee of Management.

The T.W.N.F.S. only admits women nurses trained, and in training, so as to reduce the risk of paying maternity benefit, which women are called upon to pay in mixed societies, or where there is a risk of illegitimate births. Those interested in the work of the Society should apply to the Secretary for further information at 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

### NURSING AT POOR LAW CONFERENCES.

#### NORTH-WESTERN CONFERENCE.

Following the discussion at the Conference at Scarborough, nursing has formed the most interesting topic at the North Western Poor Law Conference at Manchester at which Lord Richard Cavendish presided, and the South-Western Conference at Bath, when the Right Honourable Henry Hobhouse was in the chair.

At the Manchester Conference a paper on "The Position of Nurses and Nursing under the Poor-law, and suggested Improvements" was read by Mr. C. E. Bygrave, clerk to the Blackburn Guardians, who pointed out that great developments had taken place in recent years in regard to the nursing and treatment of the sick poor, and that, generally speaking, the quality of work in the workhouse infirmaries, and in the training schools for nurses attached to them, was high. But he urged upon the Conference the necessity for a standardized curriculum and examination for probationer nurses. There was a consensus of opinion that a recognized standard in the training of nurses should be established, there being at present no guarantee as to the real value of the certificates given by the different boards. The Conference Committee had recommended that the time served as a probationer in a small workhouse should count for the certificate, but to enable the Conference to become effective, there must be close co-operation between the large and small unions.

Miss Cripps, of West Derby, agreed that standardization was essential, but was doubtful if the Poor Law should take the lead, and Mr. Brothers urged that nurses should be better paid.

#### SOUTH-WESTERN POOR LAW CONFERENCE.

The South-Western Poor Law Conference was held at Bath, on October 7th and 8th, over which the Right Honourable Henry Hobhouse presided :—

Miss K. J. Stephenson, hon. secretary of the Wilts Nursing Association, and a member of the Wilts Insurance Committee, read a paper on "The Position of Nurses and Voluntary Nursing Associations under the Poor Law and National Insurance Act." She alluded to the fact that many old age pensioners were saved from entering workhouses owing to the care and attention they received from district nurses, and said it would be to the advantage

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)