

Mr. Kingsley Wood, L.C.C., a member of the National Insurance Advisory Committee, speaking of the accumulated surplus fund in London in respect of medical benefit, said it now amounted to £140,000, and had accumulated because 400,000 persons had not thought fit to choose a panel doctor. The London Insurance Committee had been advised by eminent counsel that they had no power to divide it amongst panel doctors who had not earned it.

Mr. Kingsley Wood proposed that a portion of this huge sum could well be utilised in establishing a great nursing scheme for London. The provision of nursing had been entirely neglected. A complete nursing scheme for the metropolis would do much to alleviate that large amount of illness amongst the industrial classes, especially women, which had already been revealed by the operation of the Act.

Speaking in support of the Royal National Pension Fund at Leeds, Mr. L. H. M. Dick said that the National Insurance Act had treated nurses badly and ungenerously, because under it they had to pay their quota towards the medical benefit which they had received before, freely and gratuitously, from the medical men in charge of the institutions in which they served. The effect was that nurses as a body loathed the very name of insurance. Now they were beginning to realise that the Insurance Act made no provision for old age as such, and the Pension Fund was recovering its former rate of progress.

A meeting of the Gloucester Branch of the National Union of Trained Nurses was held at the Union Infirmary on November 8th, and a lecture was given on "The Work of Nurses in relation to the Public Health," followed by a discussion. The lecturer, Dr. Bibby, who is a member of the Education Committee, said that before beginning his lecture he would like to say how very surprised he was to hear that so few nurses had joined the Union. He was sure it was because they failed to realise the importance to themselves and to their profession, or they would take steps to make it such a powerful body that its opinion would carry the greatest weight in all questions relating to nursing.

After the lecture, which was much appreciated, the members were taken over the Infirmary by the Superintendent Nurse, who is just having three shelters from the N.U.T.N. for her tubercular patients.

During the winter the following meetings will be held:—*December 13th.*—Clarence Rooms, 3 p.m. Dr. Alice Meredith Burn, of Cheltenham, will speak. *January 6th.*—Clarence Rooms, 6 p.m. Social evening. *February 14th.*—Lantern lecture by Miss Eden. *March 14th.*—School of Domestic Science, 3 p.m. Demonstration of invalid cooking by Mrs. Booth.

Miss K. H. Wheatley, who has just returned from the Near East, after nearly a year's work in connection with the British Red Crescent Society, first for the sick and wounded, and then for the refugees, is full of admiration for the Turks—their simplicity, courage, and heroism—and of sympathy for the women. Of the distress in Thrace at present, and in the coming winter, she speaks in terms of the deepest compassion. People think that the war is over, and that conditions are becoming normal. Could they realise the actual facts their sympathies must be touched, and their pockets opened. Five armies have swept across the country, which is now perfectly bare; the houses have been demolished, and the trees have all been cut down; there is no firewood to burn during the bitter cold of the winter now upon them, and the people camp out on the open plain, the women and children only thinly clad; many of the latter have been swept away, unable to withstand the hardships. One loaf between five people per day is a usual allowance!

The provision of employment for the refugees from Salonika is most important; this winter Miss Wheatley hopes to have 150 looms at work, the women produce beautiful materials, and orders are most welcome.

We are apt to think because the organization of nursing in the United States of America has received such splendid leadership from the Superintendents, and solid support from the rank and file, that the profession across the Atlantic has no difficulties to contend with. This is not quite correct, although the intolerable prejudice of nursing monopolists such as we suffer from is certainly unknown. But the nursing press exploiter flourishes in the States as they do at home.

Listen to the lay editor of a journal run for trained nurses!

Writing on the objection of a Dr. Rosenthal to an eight-hours day for nurses in California, she says: "In the meantime, we cannot pass by without comment Dr. Rosenthal's statement that 'the framers of the law have lost all sense of common humanity.' If Dr. Rosenthal had

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