

THE LEGITIMATE BOYCOTT.

Speaking editorially on the exclusion of unregistered nurses in California, the *Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing* says, under the heading "British Nurses Barred":—"The very fact that the California Nursing Registration Law is being so systematically developed and enforced may be the means of bringing pressure to bear that will be of great service to the nurses of Great Britain, who for some twenty years have persistently held to their purpose and appealed regularly to Parliament to grant such a law to the large army of women there in the nursing profession. But a few hard-headed Johnnie Bulls persist in blocking the progress among this group of self-supporting women, just as the same type have blocked the progress of the Suffrage Measure, each equally important to the public welfare. . . . It is unfortunate that many very able women are thus forced into the appearance of unfitness, which will be the assumption the world over, as the R.N. degree denotes a standard of efficiency, and all who are denied this mark of recognition by the legal authority will eventually appear somewhat as outcasts. Their opportunities for securing positions other than inferior will be few.

"To the nurses of Great Britain the cordial desire is expressed that the California 'boycott' may prove a powerful argument before their enemies at home for granting this long-sought legal status."

Nothing could be more efficacious in advancing registration in this country than the exclusion of British nurses by countries and States where the law demands a definite standard of nursing. It would touch our freedom of action and our pockets—simple matters we can all understand.

Already 4,000 nurses in California have applied for registration papers to conform with the new law. It is the ambition of every well-qualified Californian nurse to write R.N. after her name before the great meeting there of the International Council of Nurses in June, 1915.

How about poor little Sister Cinderella Britain? Time is passing. Who knows but she may by that time have fitted on her crystal slipper?

THE GUILD OF SERVICE.

The Annual Meeting of the Guild of Service was held on May 8th in the Chapter House of St. Paul's Cathedral. There was a representative attendance of Asylum workers, Poor Law officials, and voluntary workers present. The

Bishop of Kingston presided, and spoke in eloquent words of the objects of the Guild, and what it stands for. *Fellowship*.—Those who are engaged in this important branch of work find it a bond of union among their fellow workers. *Devotion*.—The Guild helps to keep the members faithful to their religious duties. *Hospitality*.—The Guild has its social side. New workers should find in it a spirit of sympathy ready to welcome them. The Bishop alluded with pleasure to the increase in numbers, and hoped it would grow steadily, and build up gradually a large body of members appreciating the privileges of the Guild. He spoke in warm terms of the work of the hon. officers, especially the Hon. Organizing Secretary, Mrs. Woodward, who travelled round to different Unions and Asylums, inaugurating new branches, and encouraging those which already existed. Regret was expressed at the absence through illness of the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Carden, also at the resignation of Miss Douglas, Hon. Sec. for the Southwark diocese. The Bishop alluded to the quarterly paper which, edited by Miss Rivington, was a social success, and was a useful "bit of cement," joining the members of the Guild together. He explained that they had begun the Festival that morning with the first corporate Communion of the Guild at St. Margaret's Church, Lothbury, and would proceed to St. Paul's Cathedral—the heart of the city—for their annual service.

Mrs. Woodward, as Organizing Hon. Sec., reported that since the last annual meeting branches had been established at St. James' Infirmary, Balham, at Woolwich, Greenwich, and West Ham Infirmarys, at the Holborn Schools, Mitcham, and the Shirley Schools, Croydon, at Gloucester and Warwick Unions, and the County Asylum, Lancaster, making nine new branches. The Hon. Treasurer's report showed that there was a substantial balance in hand.

The Hon. Officers and the Council were all re-elected.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Playford, the soprano of the St. Paul's Cathedral Choir, kindly sang three songs. The singer was accompanied by a nurse from Bethnal Green Infirmary.

At 8.30 the annual service took place in St. Paul's Cathedral. The Bishop admitted 18 new members to the Guild. The sermon was preached by the Rev. H. Westall, who took for his text Ex. ii 9:—"Take this child away and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)