

that the book had put the Red Cross Society on its defence.

She thought all present must realize the great need for the organization of trained nurses for service in war. The right procedure for the Council to adopt was to go first to the British Red Cross Society and ask for an answer in plain English, as to whether or no thoroughly trained nursing was to be included in its primary object of furnishing aid to the sick and wounded in time of war. If the Society, which was now the official medium for offering such aid to foreign countries, would not undertake to include women nurses in their hospital units, then the field was free for others.

She drew attention to the action of the British Red Crescent Society in sending out women nurses, who had been extremely well received, with its contingent in the recent war.

The appointment of a Sub-Committee to deal with the nursing of the sick and wounded in foreign wars was agreed upon.

### RARE AND REFRESHING FRUITS.

I met Mrs. Smith one Monday morning before nine, hurrying along in street dress. She should have been doing her washing.

"I'm going to the doctor's, ma'am," she explained, breathlessly. "It's for Jim."

"The doctor. Oh, Mrs. Smith!" was my dismayed exclamation, for we are friends, and I thought of their tiny income and numerous little ones.

"Oh, it's all right, ma'am," she said reassuringly, "we don't have to pay. This is Lloyd George."

"But Jim may lose his work," I protested, for work is precarious in our district. "What is the matter with him?"

"You know how well he has been since he has given up eating all the things that you said are bad for him. (Jim has an extremely delicate digestion.) Well, on Saturday night he brought home a pair of bloaters, and yesterday he *would* have beef for dinner instead of mutton, and then he was sick all night, and this morning he is too bad to go to work."

I shook my head in helpless dissent.

"Yes, I know, ma'am," she agreed, "but what can I do? You know what men are. You can't make them see things. And Jim says he is not going to pay fourpence a week to Lloyd George and get nothing back. He may just as well eat the things he likes, even if they do make him ill, and then get the doctor and medicine for nothing. I knew you wouldn't be pleased when you heard of it. I told him

so. But I can't altogether blame him," she added with a humorous smile. "And now, if you will excuse me, ma'am, I'll hurry off, or I shall miss the doctor."

As I walked on through the sunny lanes that sweet May morning, the incident gave me "furiously to think." If the Smiths, who were my most hopeful pupils in matters of health, arrived at such conclusions as this, what would be likely to happen in the case of people who receive no health teaching at all?

HEALTH MISSIONER.

### NURSING ORGANIZATION IN HOLLAND.

#### STATE REGISTRATION.

DEAR EDITOR,—My conscience is reproaching me that for such a long time I have remained silent about nursing affairs in Holland. But now I will employ these last days of 1913 for much unfinished business, and try to get through it before December 31st.

We have had a very busy time all through the autumn. You know the elections of last summer gave us again a Liberal Government, and this was an incentive to send again a petition asking for State Registration. The Male Nurses' Association and the Society of State Registration of Nurses did likewise; and now we are awaiting the results, and hoping that those Members of Parliament who promised to support our cause will keep their word. The Bond voor Zieken Verpleging also sent in a petition to the Government as soon as they knew all about ours; but of course with quite other intentions. Its whole purport was to give a rather exaggerated and not quite truthful survey of its own work and importance; and further to imply that all members of the Bond voor Zieken Verpleging are against State Registration. As proof of this contention, it was alleged that State Registration has till now never been discussed at a meeting of the Bond. But whereas the management of the Bond's affairs is quite in hands of the medical superintendents of hospital who are all opposed to State Registration, this proof is not very convincing. But it seems to me that with this petition the Bond has been overdoing things; everywhere protests are heard. I hope its effect will be to make nurses at length realise that the Bond does not work for the real interests of the nursing profession, but only for the private interests of the hospitals.

#### BIG FIGHT WITH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Besides this work, we are having a big fight with the Red Cross Society, which wants to institute a new category of nurses, called "assistants of the Red Cross," whose whole training will consist in a short theoretical "first aid" course and practical work during thirty-six half days in a surgical ward. The Red Cross Society pretends that these

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)