

assistants are wanted in times of war, because there can not be forthcoming a sufficient number of nurses, without depopulating the hospitals too much; we are of a different opinion and feel assured that there is a sufficient number of nurses in our country to meet all emergencies. Besides, we are of opinion that those very insufficiently trained assistants will be a great danger for the patients, by reason of their ignorance, and a great hindrance to the trained nurses. But another drawback of this new institution will be that those women will do district nursing; and because they will give their services *pro Deo*, the societies for district nursing will accept them. It is a big shame, and the poor people are of course the dupes. Because these women want some occupation for their idle moments, but lack the energy, and the insight into the nurses' work and responsibility, to go through a three years' training as a nurse, the poor are to have bad nursing. We have protested very energetically against this blameworthy project of the Red Cross Society in all the daily papers; but as long as girls don't learn a profession just as boys do, as long as *pro Dei amore* nursing work is more appreciated and honoured than the professional work of the salaried nurse, as long as society does not feel its great responsibility in respect to the health of the people, and leaves everything to philanthropy, these unprofessional, untrained or badly-trained women will find occupation and will continue their harmful work. Of course, here as elsewhere, the Women's Movement is stirring up the girls—but it will still take a long time before the spirit of that movement makes much progress in the Conservative circles from where those assistants of the Red Cross are recruited.

J. P. van LANSCHOT HUBRECHT,
President of the Dutch Nurses' Association.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES, BATH BRANCH.

A meeting was held at Borewell House (by kind permission of the Authorities) on Tuesday, January 6th, 1914. Owing to prevalent illness there was a small attendance. Miss Stokes briefly stated her reasons for declining to stand for re-election as Branch Organiser. She wished to thank the Executive, and, indeed, all the Bath members, for the pleasant, cordial relations that had always existed and hoped to continue friendship with many of them, though unable to have any official connection. Miss Fry, the County Organiser, kindly came to give a helpful talk on points connected with N.U.T.N. Mrs. Latter Parsons briefly expressed her regret at also feeling compelled to resign. The report for 1913 and balance sheet were read and approved. The result of elections: Miss Terry was elected Branch Secretary; Miss Murliss as Treasurer; the Executive Committee, Misses Axten, Gaskell, Leach, Kemp, Pidgeon, Stevens were elected. After tea

the new committee, with Miss Terry in the chair, proceeded to elect Miss Horspool as full member, Miss O. Gibbons as associate member. The ex-officio members of the Committee, Misses Fry, Horspool, Branch Secretary and Treasurer, were as before, except that Miss Mason has resigned. The General Committee was for the present left as last year, with the exception of Mrs. Latter Parsons, Miss Stokes and Mrs. Edwards who retire, and Miss Humphries has left Bath. Miss Terry appointed Miss Fry as her deputy at the Board meeting, and Miss Gaskell consented to act as representative in place of Miss Terry, who comes on ex-officio at the County Board.

THE TRAINED NURSE CHIROPODIST.

Miss Gretta Lyons writes from Melbourne:—
“I notice a letter from a nurse in the JOURNAL of 8th November last asking if it would be *infra dig.* for her to take up chiropody. It might interest her to know, that when I had to give up active nursing, on account of health, I took up this branch of work, and am doing remarkably well; in fact, so much work has come along, I shall soon need help. I wish to wait till I can take a nurse in, as I want to keep it in the hands of the nursing profession. I think chiropody, and the care of the hair, should never have passed from the medical profession, likewise the teeth. The doctors with whom I worked in my Private Hospital, and others, have been very good to me, also all my old patients. I have two nicely fitted and furnished rooms in the centre of the city. I do all the treatment, massage, &c., necessary for tired and aching feet, and send the patients direct to the medical practitioner if I consider it necessary. My fees whilst building up my business are 5s. for a single treatment—or I give a course of six for £1 1s. To nurses and workers I charge 3s. 6d.”

Our reply to our correspondent was that no honest work was *infra dig.*, and we can imagine that a very good living could be made by trained nurse chiropodists. Why it is considered permissible to smile at “corns” and “gumboils,” two of the causes of the most exquisite pain possible, one is at a loss to understand. Anyone thoroughly skilled in treating the former is indeed a blessing to humanity. Feet are so indispensable in all the active walks of life that we should pay them the skilled attention which is their due. Nurses especially are well advised to take considerable trouble to keep their feet in the best condition possible, as, if these fail them, active professional work becomes impossible.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)