

of workers, have never yet been called on to imitate.

Society is not benefited by the presence of a poorly paid working class, nor by the ministrations of underpaid nurses, for the underpaid worker is liable at any moment to become a dependent, even a public charge, while from the standpoint of public health no class that is habitually overworked and underpaid ever shows a good grade of general healthfulness. Underpaid and underfed are synonymous terms, and we may therefore find a class of workers, such as the cottage nurses of England, who, presumably helping individuals in other classes to recover from illness, are by the conditions of this service being pressed downward into ill-health and poverty. An example such as this proves that there are other and better ways, through an intelligent co-operation, to the happiness of the worker. Our duty is undoubtedly to support every movement for an adequate living wage for all workers, and in this connection I must allude to a recent newspaper controversy in a New York paper over the comparative salaries of nurses and teachers. Now teachers are notoriously grossly underpaid, and it seemed clear to me that nurses, writing on this question to the papers, did not grasp the correct point. Instead of dwelling on the greater danger and uncertainty of a nurse's work, they should have insisted on the wretched inadequacy of the average teacher's wage, and have shown that, so far from nurses being paid too much, teachers are not paid enough.

You will hardly expect me to open my mouth without speaking of suffrage, and I do want to say most seriously that, in the world of work, the three needs of workers—education, shorter hours, and a living wage—are terribly precarious, terribly uncertain, unstable, and insecure unless protected well and firmly by legislation which is steadily and uniformly enforced by proper inspection and suitable penalties. And I should like to ask you to answer candidly this question. How likely is it that workers can secure such legislation and enforcement without the ballot? They are then a negligible quantity in the eyes of law-makers, and find a powerful body of employers armed with political power opposed to them. For the sake of the working woman, whose foothold is less secure than ours, no nurse should be opposed to enfranchisement for women. To climb up ourselves and push a weaker person down is what none of us would do by a physical act, and shall we do it by an attitude of mind? We have been privileged in our legislative success even without the vote, because every man has some

grateful memory of a nurse, but we might have done even better had we had political power, and without it, can we feel sure of the future of our educational standards? The nurses of Great Britain, Germany, Holland, are badly oppressed and handicapped by their disfranchised state. How different is their status in the Scandinavian countries, America, and New Zealand!

To close, it seems to me that our status in the working world will always be decided by the attitude that we take toward the needs and problems of the working world. If we are exclusive, and shut our minds to all except "professional" subjects, we shall become one-sided specialists, and in time lose our usefulness, as did the French nuns in hospital work. If we acknowledge our relation to the working world, and fulfil the obligation that this relation brings, we shall live and become ever more useful and respected.

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#### NURSES' INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL TO MISS NIGHTINGALE.

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In redemption of the promise made by the New Zealand delegates at the Cologne Congress of the International Council of Nurses, Mrs. Holgate, the only official delegate from the Dominion at present in New Zealand, proposes to raise a shilling fund towards the endowment of a Chair of Nursing in memory of Florence Nightingale at the London University. *Kai Tiaki* says, "The American, Canadian, Australasian, and Indian Nurses' Associations are joining in this great object, to have some such recognition of the profession of nursing in that greatest city of the world, which all British people must feel belongs to them, whether far away or near. We hope when the next International Meeting is held at San Francisco the New Zealand Nurses' contribution will be ready."

We hope the contribution from the Motherland will be ready.

The presentation of Purses for this memorial to the President of the International Council of Nurses should be one of the most inspiring ceremonies ever held in connection with our international federation.

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The late Mr. Arthur Chamberlain, of Moor Green, Moseley, has left a life annuity of £200 to his trained nurse, Miss Jessie Helen Phipps. Her colleagues will congratulate her on this generous recognition of her skilled services.

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