

men and women of affairs, and politicians of all shades of opinion, all able to give valuable advice, and who after exhaustive consultation for the good of the community, and the nursing profession as a whole, have drafted the Nurses' Bill on a thoroughly democratic basis.

To make the Nurses' Bill more "acceptable in some quarters"—the fundamental principles of "direct representation" of the registered nurses, and the one portal system for registration—a principle accepted in the Midwives Act, would have to be abandoned, and these demands the organized nurses and medical practitioners who form the Central Registration Committee have incorporated in the Bill, and mean to stand by. It is to be hoped the National Union, to placate objectors, will make no attempt to emasculate the Central Nursing Council, and thus betray the best interests of the profession at large. We feel sure it will not do so of *malice prepense*, therefore let us hope its members will hesitate to support a disintegrating policy until they have given earnest thought to the whole question, which so far they certainly have not done.

Certain delegates and members of the constituent societies forming the Central Registration Committee have given their sympathy and support to the National Union, but they will find themselves in a very anomalous position, if it proceeds to constitute itself an opposing influence to the Bill they have agreed upon. They certainly cannot remain members of both organisations.

As to the representation of the National Union on the proposed Nursing Council surely it has got to adopt Registration as a plank in its policy, and *work* and *pay* for it as other societies of nurses have done for years, before it can justly claim representation. But the cause needs all the support it can gain—let the National Union of Trained Nurses win its registration spurs; it will then be time to consider the guerdon to be awarded.

VISIT TO EDMONTON INFIRMARY.

The Hon. Secretary reports that the members of the London Branch of the N.U.T.N. had a most delightful afternoon for their social meeting at Edmonton Infirmary, which was held by the kind invitation of Miss Dowbiggin, the Matron, and by permission of the Guardians, last Saturday.

Everything was done to ensure a successful afternoon, and the nurses much enjoyed sitting out in the garden and having tea. There were all sorts of sports for any who liked to play, and most of the nurses took the opportunity of going round the wards.

At the close of the afternoon a meeting was held. Dr. Mort, the Medical Superintendent, who kindly took the chair, said that he had much sympathy with the movement, and as far as he had been able to gather from the report the National Union seemed to be doing much useful work, and he looked forward to hearing more details from the Central Secretary.

Miss Pyle said that the work of the Union was

intimately bound up with the history of the nursing profession, as it had been founded to carry on the ideals which the great founders of it had upheld. She gave a sketch of the evolution of nursing and of the history of the National Union, which she said was not a trade union but a union to uphold the best traditions of the profession. It was growing with remarkable rapidity, two new branches were starting immediately, and there were several places coming forward. She said that the Union wanted to have a great Institute of Nursing in London with a library club room, information bureau, and many other things that would be a great boon to the profession. One of the Branches, that at Liverpool, also wanted to have headquarters there, and had raised the sum of £700 in three months for their headquarters. London did not seem to be able to do anything of that kind.

The Chairman of the Edmonton Board of Guardians said that he hoped that the appeal would meet with the support it deserved.

Another Guardian who was present asked why the Union should not be a trade union, and the reply was given because in the first place nursing was not a trade, the first consideration with a nurse was her work and not herself. Trades unions aimed only at better conditions for the workers, but the members of the National Union of Trained Nurses aimed at making themselves better fitted for their work, and more able to help their patients. For instance, the trade union in the shoe trade aimed at better conditions for the workers, not at making better shoes. Nurses dealt with people and not with things, and their work must always come first. They would try to better bad conditions too, because they believed that the best work can only be given if the nurse is working under good conditions. (This is also the ultimate aim of trades unionism.—ED.)

Miss Marsters (Superintendent of the Paddington D.N.A.) in proposing the vote of thanks to the Guardians, to the Medical Superintendent, and the Matron, spoke of the need for nurses to know something of the work of the world that was going on outside the walls of institutions. The Union provided a common meeting ground where nurses who were engaged in outside branches of the work could meet those in institutions to their great mutual advantage. Nurses were more and more in demand nowadays for public health work and district nursing, and she felt that all nurses ought to know something of how the patients whom they nursed in the hospitals lived when they were outside.

At the end of the meeting a large number of applications for membership were received.

THE LEEDS BRANCH.

June has been a very busy month for the members of the Leeds Branch of the N.U.T.U.

On the 12th Dr. Spottiswood-Cameron, M.O.H. Leeds, gave an interesting lecture on "Flies and their danger," illustrated by lantern slides in the Council Chamber of the Leeds Town Hall. As

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