

Thousands of workers are losing work, and nurses already feel a decided pinch. Then, with all tragic appeals for relief, philanthropists will have no money to spare. Of course, the whole Panama Exhibit is bound to be seriously affected. The managers are still keeping up a good front, but if war continues to extend round the world I should think it quite probable the whole thing might have to be postponed. I feel, too, that it is useless to hope at present for gifts to the International Memorial to Miss Nightingale, though as yet we have made no announcement—events will decide that for us.

As the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland will not be held until November, the President will be greatly obliged for the opinion of the Presidents and members of the Societies and Leagues which form the Council, on the points raised in these letters. She feels sure that neither energy nor funds will be forthcoming for the support of an international exhibit, nor can much be hoped for in support of the Nurses' International Memorial to Miss Nightingale. The latter appeal must be postponed until a more convenient season. The money already received has been banked, and can quietly wait augmentation in a happier future.

MEDICAL SUPPORT FOR NURSES' REGISTRATION.

Dr. Henry M. Hurd, for so many years the Superintendent of that hospital of world-wide repute, the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore, has a most encouraging article on Nurses' Registration in last month's *Modern Hospital*, the leading institutional journal in the United States:—

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The movement to register nurses in various states has followed very closely a similar movement twenty years ago to procure the examination and registration of physicians in the United States. At that time the effort to register physicians was regarded as futile and not destined to have any permanent value. It has, however, done more to promote medical research and study, and the reorganization of medical education, than any other similar movement during the past century. A similar benefit promises to follow the effort which began in 1903 in a similar way to register trained nurses and to give them a certain standing before the public. Much, in fact, has already been accomplished for the betterment of the training of nurses and their protection in nursing by this movement. At the present time thirty-nine states have more or less perfect laws governing the registration of nurses. In eight of these states such registration is compulsory, and no nurse is allowed the privileges of a trained nurse

without passing an examination and receiving the endorsement of the state board. In the remaining thirty-one states the law is permissive, and the registration of nurses assures certain privileges and opportunities which do not come to those who have been unwilling to have their qualifications tested by an examining board, and proper scrutiny into their antecedents and method of education. It does not require a prophet to predict that the time is not far distant when all states will have registration laws governing the practice of medicine and no less the practice of nursing. It is consequently well to consider what ought to be done now to perfect methods of examining, testing, and licensing women to practise the profession of nursing. It would seem desirable to make examinations and licences compulsory in each state, in order to protect the public from incompetent and inefficient nurses, such as graduate from small special private hospitals or correspondence schools, and who may not possess the general practical training which constitutes the trained nurse. To this end the existing laws must be strengthened and enforced. There must also be standards of preliminary education, the establishment of proper age, and guarantees of proper home training. Following this, there must be some assurance when a nurse is known as a registered nurse that she has had the requisite training in various branches of nursing, and has profited by her opportunities. Once approved by a state examining board and allowed to write herself down as a registered nurse, the state owes it to her to protect her in her rights and not subject her to the competition of half-educated, untrained, and incompetent women who may be turned out by commercial hospitals and correspondence schools.

SICK ATTENDANTS, ORDERLIES, AND NURSING MAIDS.

As a logical result of such training and preparation of competent women, there should also be a general movement to supplement this higher educational work by providing training for attendants on the sick, and for educating, training, and supervising male and female attendants on the sick of the type of the hospital orderly, and also for the training of nursery maids. To these should be given an assured position in the training system of each state, and their work should be organised, supervised, and improved.

A very limited number of the Superintendents of Nurse Training Schools in the United States think the latter plan feasible.

TRUE TALES WITH A MORAL.

NURSING UP TO DATE.

During pause in elementary Red Cross Lecture. Modern girl (to friend in front row): "Oh! I do so long to go to the front; but it is all so unfair; they are actually sending hospital nurses on active service who may have been trained years ago; and we who are up to date are kept at home!"

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