

such hospitals are being generously supported by public subscriptions. Chauffeurs on active service also are receiving their regular salaries when attached to these voluntary hospitals. We hope the Joint War Committee which is now responsible for the nursing department will for the future not invite nurses to give voluntary service. The result of no remuneration is already an appeal to charity upon their behalf, to meet the calls of sickness and other obligations (this, we believe, at the instigation of the Pension Fund officials), which should not be necessary if trained nurses are justly paid. Let what are known as "Society" hospitals be compelled to pay for nursing service: it is the only right method of preventing distress amongst women who honourably earn their own living, and there is no reason why they should be exploited for a fashionable fad.

The twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Nurses' Co-operation, just issued, states that the most important event of the year has been the removal of the offices from 8, New Cavendish Street, to 22, Langham Street, W. The change has necessitated considerable expenditure, but the new quarters are a great improvement on the old.

There are 469 fully trained nurses on the general staff, 31 asylum trained nurses for mental patients, and 12 nurses, eligible for election, working on probation for six months.

Immediately on the outbreak of war so many nurses applied for leave to volunteer that it was necessary to remind them that permission could only be granted to a certain number, as patients at home would still require their services. Up to the end of last year 140 had been engaged in nursing soldiers at home or abroad.

At the Lambeth Police Court recently, Mr. Biron took occasion to repeat a recent expression of opinion that the nurses of the London County Council should not take the extreme step of cutting a verminous school-child's hair without a medical man's instruction. The case before him was that of Maud Ould, a married woman, who was charged on a warrant with assaulting Lillian Anne Montague, a County Council nurse. It was stated that the prisoner's reason for committing the assault was that the hair of one of her children had been partially cut at the cleansing station.

In reply to the magistrate's questions, Mr. Carter (for the London County Council) said that the nurses were specially trained for the work. In 1913 there were 9,000 cases actually dealt with, and in about 70 per cent. of the cases the hair had to be cut. It was not done until at

least six weeks' notice had been given to the parent. The prosecutrix stated that the prisoner came to her at the cleansing station and asked: "Why didn't you cut all the hair off? I know why you didn't. You know you are wrong. I know what the magistrate said last week." Afterwards the prisoner struck her with her fist. The prisoner denied striking the prosecutrix.

Mr. Biron imposed a fine of 20s., with 4s. costs.

If police magistrates will make such silly recommendations, no wonder the authority of the nurses is undermined. It is the disagreeable duty of the nurses to attend to the children's dirty heads, and they should have power to protect their companions from infection.

At a recent meeting of the Halesowen School managers the question arose as to allowing teachers to attend at the Grange, which has been turned into a hospital for wounded soldiers, for nursing, and Mr. Marsland remarked that he thought they could find sufficient nurses without calling upon teachers in these times when there was a shortage, and several schools were understaffed. The matter was left with the Chairman, who will interview the headmistress. The Clerk stated that the Birmingham authority would not allow their teachers to act as nurses in school hours.

AN ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

The usual ten years' rule has been waived in favour of a portrait of Miss Nightingale, which is now on exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, under the following description:—

"FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, O.M., 1820-1910. Organizer of nursing. Bronze cast of a marble bust by Sir John Steell, R.S.A. Presented February, 1915, by Sir Harry and Lady Stephen. Register number 1,748. Placed in Room XXVII extension."

AMERICAN NURSES WORKING FOR STATE REGISTRATION.

The nurses of Maine, Alabama, and North Dakota are presenting Bills for Nurses Registration, and are working enthusiastically in the good cause. Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts are considering amendments. There will be strong opposition to the amendment of the Bill in the latter State, which is much more reactionary than the Western States. The district is known as New England, and apparently there is still much of our original sin in its constitution.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)