

advocate for the employment of women nurses on the male side of asylums, emphasises in the professional press that if this system were more widely adopted, able-bodied young men, employed as attendants on the insane, might be set free. He writes:—

“Fifteen years have now elapsed since the experiment of employing women on a large scale to nurse male patients in an asylum was tried in Scotland. All that was then said as to the advantages of female nursing for insane men under certain limitations has since been proved true by many observers, and the fears of the early opponents of this system have been found to be negligible, for the dangers that they prophesied have by forethought and care been avoided. The system is now, from the practical experience they have gained of its benefits, very strongly advocated by the Scottish Board of Control, and their judgment can be accepted without reserve. It has been all but universally adopted by the Scottish asylums.

“As there is every indication that all eligible males who can be spared will soon be wanted for our military forces, I take this opportunity of directing the attention of the medical superintendents and the members of boards and committees of asylums in England to this system, as it has up till now scarcely been introduced into English asylums. Not only will they be doing a patriotic duty by introducing these female nurses to enable more of their male attendants to enlist, but they can be assured that they will at the same time be adding to the comfort and well-being of the sick and infirm male patients under their charge.”

Miss L. L. Dock and Miss M. E. P. Davis have been made honorary members of the American Nurses' Association, an honour very seldom bestowed. Now that Miss Florence Nightingale and Miss Isla Stewart have passed away, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick remains the only foreigner who enjoys this honour. A Resolution has been sent from the Association to the Department of Commerce and Labour, U.S.A., asking that trained nurses be classed as professional people. Secretary Redfield explained that in the census, nurses are classed as professionals, but that the Immigration Department, to which the resolution referred, is in the Department of Labour. The resolution was then sent to Secretary Wilson, of that Department, who quoted the present ruling in regard to nurses, and gave no hope of a change.

The only way of compelling the Government of the U.S.A. to make the change is for their own Governments to give them legal status

through Registration Acts, when they would have a real claim to the privilege. At present, trained nurses are merely domestic servants.

The ruling of the American Red Cross Society that no nurses would be accepted for enrolment who are not members of the American Nurses' Association has given a great impetus to the application for membership of the Association. There are now 315 nurses' societies federated in this National Organization, containing some 25,000 members—a record to be proud of indeed.

Miss L. L. Dock, as we all know, is in charge of the Foreign Department of the *American Journal of Nursing*, and what she writes “About the War” is worth reporting, as it expresses the beautiful human ideals of this noble and lovable little woman.

ABOUT THE WAR.

We have been asked why we do not record events happening in connection with the European War. Books are being written; an English nurse, Miss Violetta Thurstan, has written one—very well, too—and it is published by Putnams. So it may be time for us to remark that the Foreign Department, at any rate, intends to boycott this particular war. The only mention it will draw from us will be denunciation of “war” as a specimen of man's stupidity. This war will get no advertising, no “write ups,” from the secretary of the International Council. It is a colossal piece of atavism—of return to the age of the tiger and the ape—and though one or another country may be most conspicuous in aggression and attack, yet all the Great Powers, our own not excluded, share the guilt of maintaining the system, and moving along lines which everybody knows must and will lead to war.

In monopolistic control of land and the earth treasures within—in race hatred and jealousy—in fierce, lawless, and greedy rivalry for trade; in the promulgated belief that one nation can live and grow by destroying, by exterminating another, in all these things what great nation has a clean record? Which one can say, “I am holier than thou?” Can we say it, who exterminated the Indians? Therefore in this column there will be no lines that sound like criticism of this or that nation; no condemnation or disapproval of this or that act. Each one can be matched somewhere else or at some other time. What we condemn is the frightful mismanagement of this fair world; the enormous stupidity of the destruction of life; the pretence that organised, legalised war can be legitimate, that it can have rules, that it

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