

The question of the payment of salaries and expenses to professional nurses is one of great moment; for, unless this point is settled, there is the danger of untrained women of rank and fortune stepping into the places which the professionally trained nurses alone should occupy.

The Society of the Red Cross is better organized in some countries than in others. This would seem to furnish an additional argument in favour of an International Society which could formulate uniformly good rules, the urgent need of which this war has amply demonstrated. The question of nurses' salaries would then be brought to a satisfactory and uniform solution.

The invasion of the nursing ranks by ladies who have taken short courses of lectures on nursing and who are in a position not only to forego remuneration, but, in many instances, to spend large sums on the wounded and suffering, has been an injustice to professional nurses. The services those ladies were willing to render should have been confined to special domains. They are out of place in surgical theatres and wards.

It is suggested that all Societies having the same charitable object at heart as the Red Cross Society should be approached with a view to federation, among themselves and in their own country, and to the election of representatives to be sent by them to form an International Council, meeting in one of the neutral countries.

It is true that every five years an international meeting of the Red Cross brings together representatives of the different *Governments*, but in addition to these officials there should be delegates from the Societies themselves. Here is an outline of the work which might be undertaken by such a Council:—

1. To specify the conditions under which civilian surgeons are to be permitted to work at the front and in military hospitals.
2. The same as applying to nurses.
3. To consider offers of help from civilian doctors and nurses.
4. To assign to all such their posts wherever help is most needed.
5. To define the difference of rank between the trained professional nurse and the untrained voluntary helper.
6. To censor and forward the correspondence of doctors and nurses belonging to neutral countries.
7. To distribute brassards to those not already provided with them by their own country.

Dr. Krafft has evidently had experience of conditions similar to those with which we are familiar in this country.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

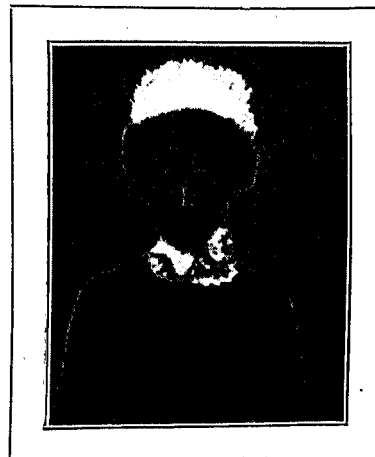
The National Union of Trained Nurses have now moved to roomier quarters, at 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, London, S.W. Marsham Street is a continuation of Great Smith Street, and the new office is only three minutes' walk from the old.

THE PASSING BELL.

It is with great sorrow that we record the tragic end of Miss Catherine McAllister, Assistant Matron at the Kingston Hill Infirmary, Kingston-on-Thames, who was mortally injured in the Irish mail disaster near Northampton on Saturday morning last.

Miss McAllister was trained at Whiston Infirmary, Prescot, from 1900-1904, and subsequently held the positions of Ward Sister at the South Shields Infirmary, Ward Sister and afterwards Second Assistant Matron at the Bermondsey Infirmary, and lastly First Assistant Matron at the Kingston Hill Infirmary, to which post she was appointed in 1911. She was also a member of the Kingston Infirmary Nurses' League, and of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

The Matron of the Infirmary, Miss Annie Smith, writes that Miss McAllister has always carried out the duties of her office conscientiously and well,



MISS CATHERINE McALLISTER.

and many of the probationers owe much to her careful teaching. By her kind gentle manner she endeared herself to everyone, and her loss is most keenly felt.

Miss McAllister was travelling to Ireland for her annual holiday, and left the Kingston Infirmary early on Saturday morning in the best of spirits. She travelled alone, and expected to reach her destination at ten o'clock at night. Contrary to her usual custom she arranged to cross by day instead of night, as she thought it would be safer.

Unfortunately she was in one of the front carriages of the ill-fated train, which was completely wrecked, and received such serious injuries that she died about three hours later in the Northampton General Hospital, to which she had been removed.

Sisters Prichard and Wood left the Kingston Infirmary on Monday for Northampton in order to pay a last tribute of love to their late colleague,

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