

The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., The Lady Balfour of Burleigh, Sir Alexander Hargreaves Brown, Bart., Mrs. George Byron, Sir Thomas Glen Coats, Bart., The Duke of Devonshire, G.C.V.O., Sir Rickman J. Godlee, Bart., K.C.V.O., M.S., F.R.C.S., the Right Hon. Lewis Harcourt, M.P., Lord Inchcape, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., the Right Hon. Walter Long, M.P., Lady White Todd, Miss Izme Vickers.

Joint Hon. Secretaries.—Sir George Younger, Bart., M.P., The Hon. Lady Williamson.

Hon. Treasurer.—Sir William Plender.

In our opinion this deplorable condition of affairs arises primarily from defective organization in auxiliary military hospitals, whereby a few persons of wealth are permitted to assume control and management of hospitals, the majority of whom have neither knowledge nor qualifications for the task. Women who know nothing of trained nursing, or sanitary and domestic science, are placed in authority over experts in these departments.

The professional nurses, because they are paid, are often treated by these autocrats with a lack of courtesy they dare not exhibit to their own domestic servants. The whole system is the acme of snobbery, and one which has aroused a sense of bitter resentment throughout the ranks of the nursing profession.

In the case before us we find a minority of a committee, composed of Sir Archibald Williamson and his wife, and two other persons, met, condemned the senior nursing officer unheard, and determined to get rid of her. They ignored the very basis of British law, that an accused person is innocent until he is proved guilty, as they deprived this lady of the elementary right to defend her good name from secret aspersions.

The worst feature in this case is that the Chairman of the Hospital suggested to the Matron that she should practically commit professional suicide by slinking out of the building, as if she were a criminal, without the knowledge of her colleagues. A more cowardly suggestion has never been made, and we congratulate Miss Tubbs that she refused to be victimized.

The Matron and Sisters are acting under legal advice, but the only voice which is likely to have any influence on the Committee of the Endsleigh Palace Hospital for Officers is the *vox populi*, expressed with no uncertain sound, and we hope that it will unite with us in demanding protection for the nursing staff of this public institution, supported by the taxpayer and the public, from intolerable injustice, so that their valuable services may be retained for the patients who so greatly appreciate them.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

The subject chosen by the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women Workers for the principal place in the discussions of its Annual Conference was "Woman's Share in the Work of Reconstruction after the War." It was the chief topic at the Meeting for Girls on the afternoon of Monday, October 4th, when the President, Mrs. Creighton, urged that young women must make themselves ready for hard work as women did not prepare themselves in former times, and also at the great evening meeting on October 6th, and throughout the day on October 7th.

The morning and afternoon on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 5th and 6th, were devoted to the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women, the Governing body of the N.U.W.W. and were all too short for the business brought before it.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Two Amendments to the Constitution were adopted; the first proposed by Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, providing that any member of the Council should have the right to require that the voting strength, for and against, be appended to Resolutions for purposes of publication, and use; and the second, proposed by Mrs. Creighton from the chair, providing that a new President should come into office in the January following her election, instead of immediately after it, in October.

RESOLUTIONS.

Of fourteen resolutions only six could be discussed, amongst those eliminated being one urging the Government to put a comprehensive measure for the control of the Liquor Traffic in the forefront of their legislative programme of social reforms; another to have been moved by Miss E. S. Haldane, LL.D., on behalf of the Sheffield Branch, expressing the conviction "that the presence of suitable women on Boards of Management of all hospitals, sanatoria, asylums, dispensaries, and nursing institutions is eminently necessary in the interests of the patients, of the nurses, and of general efficiency," and urging that legislation should be introduced "by which all Local Authorities which have such institutions under their control are required to appoint women on each Board or Committee of Management" and asking the Executive "to consider the best means for procuring the recognition of this principle by voluntary hospitals."

Resolutions were carried (1) urging the Government to promote the appointment of suitable women to carry out Police Duties in relation to women and children, and (2) that the powers, salaries, and pensions of women police constables should be equal to those of men constables; (3) that where, on account of war, women are employed to take the place of men, rates of payment should be at the same rate as those of men, and (4) expressing the opinion of the Council that

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