

with her hospital, had to retreat with the Army from Rovno, from Lemberg and elsewhere; yet, by her own force of character and inexhaustible spirit, she maintained the *moral* of staff and patients alike, and now, at Kieff, presides over as well-ordered an institution as one could wish to see.

"The other remarkable hospital was a very interesting institution outside the city; it contained 150 beds for armless or legless men who needed artificial limbs. These were manufactured, with extraordinary skill, upon the ground floor, and each new limb was specially made for the soldier who was going to wear it. He was kept in the hospital until the leg or the arm was exactly fitted to him, and he had become adept in the use of it."

We are indebted to Miss Violetta Thurstan, who is now in Russia, for the interesting pictures on the previous page.

## THE VOLUNTARY NURSING COLLEGE SCHEME.

### BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.

As we go to press a meeting is being held at 83, Pall Mall, upon the invitation of Miss Swift, of representatives of Nurses' Organizations and others, to discuss the Voluntary Nursing College Scheme. No doubt the delegates of societies which have for years promoted the organization of nursing through the Nurses' Registration Bill, will make their point of view quite clear, and it is high time that all those genuinely anxious for the best interests of nursing, should co-operate to attain it.

In the meanwhile the promoters of the Voluntary Scheme are working energetically to enlist the support of matrons and others. We learn on good authority that, as on former occasions, Sir Henry Burdett is quietly using all his personal influence in this direction, and that Sir E. Cooper Perry, Superintendent of Guy's Hospital, is also supporting voluntary organization. At the meeting let us hope the names of those who have sprung this new Scheme on the profession at this most ill-opportune time will be announced. This is altogether too serious a matter for trained nurses for any further privacy and ambiguity. Frankly, we strongly deprecate any form of secrecy in attempting to promote a Governing Body for the Nursing Profession. This course was adopted over the "Higher Education of Nurses Scheme" at the Board of Trade in 1905, and in connection with "The Nurses' Directory Bill" in the House of Lords in 1908, both of which dangerous attacks were ultimately defeated by the

class to be governed, at great expense to themselves.

### PUBLIC OPINION.

Last week's *Medical Press* has a word of warning to our profession in this connection. It is well to see ourselves as others see us.

For many years past (says the *Medical Press*) there has been, as our readers know, a strong agitation among nurses to secure State Registration. The official nursing organisations are in favour of registration, but certain of the larger hospitals seem to think that their interests are threatened by the proposal, and so far the agitation has not had complete success. A Nurses' Registration Bill has passed the House of Lords on one or two occasions, but up to the present has not become law. Since the beginning of the war nurses have found themselves too busy to spend their time in political activities, and the demand for State Registration has been allowed to stand over. Unfortunately, as THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING last week points out, the interests of nurses are now threatened by the proposed establishment of a voluntary scheme of some sort which may "dish" registration. It appears that the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance Societies has taken the matter in hand, and proposes to establish a College of Nursing, one of the functions of which is to grant a certificate of proficiency in nursing. The scheme seems to be sufficiently foolish to condemn itself, but the nurses do well to be on their guard. It is largely owing to the powerful social influence of persons connected with the two societies mentioned that nurses have been deprived of their proper prerogative in attending to our sick and wounded soldiers, and their duties committed to unskilled hands. A committee which cannot distinguish between a nurse with three or four years' training and a voluntary worker with three or four weeks' is certainly not a body to be entrusted with any control over the education of nurses.

### EQUALITY OF STATUS.

*The Vote* demands "Equality of Status," in the following paragraph:—

"The nursing profession has never been treated as a profession; except for insisting on strenuous and never-ceasing training, those mainly dependent on it have treated it as of no higher standing than domestic service. The new proposal by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, who, only the other day, publicly pledged himself to the principle of equality for men and women, is so strangely insulting that one can only marvel at the type of mind that could evolve it. The nursing profession, instead of having its State Registration and self-government, is to have a system of 'voluntary' training and control, under a managing committee composed—not of nurses and Matrons; oh, dear no!—of governors of hospitals, doctors, and persons like Mr. Stanley. The sheer impudence of it takes

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