

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

We have received from the National Union of Trained Nurses a copy of their annual report, 1915-1916—pale blue in colour and bearing on the cover the star of the Union suspended from a bar bearing the motto "Per ardua ad astra." It is admirably arranged and printed, in clear type, and its policy, as defined, is equally clear: to watch over the interests of the nursing profession and to promote reforms which will be conducive to its welfare. We are told also that "one of the principles in accordance with which the Union is being developed is that only by placing responsibility on the rank and file and consulting their opinion will the best work be accomplished."

The actual carrying out of such a principle can only be arrived at, it is stated, by degrees under the conditions controlling the work of nurses. But it was with this desire in view that a referendum was held in May to ascertain the feelings of the members on the principle of State Registration. The voting cards were sent out to Full Members only, and 520 replied. Of these 485 were in favour of the principle, and of the Union supporting it, five were unsigned, and ten approved the principle but did not wish the Union to support it, five expressed uncertain or not relevant opinions, and thirty-five were against. The Union has since asked for, and been accorded, representation on the Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and so is taking its share in working for this reform.

The Treasurer's Report shows a balance of £212 7s. 10½d. in hand, but Miss Tawney in dissecting the items points out that "if we would keep our balance on the right side we must all exert ourselves to procure financial help for the Union and not leave it to one or two individuals to do so." That is sound finance. We wish the N.U.T.N. all prosperity in the coming year.

APPOINTMENTS.

Russian Medical Relief Expedition.—Sisters: Miss Ball, Miss F. Bambridge, Miss E. Barton, Miss F. Clifton, Miss M. Crowe, Miss M. Wilson.

Seaford Military Hospital.—Sister: Miss G. Faddy.

MEETING AT THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER INFIRMARY.

(Communicated by the Matron.)

On Monday, June 5th, 1916, at the City of Westminster Infirmary, Miss Violetta Thurstan gave an address to the Nursing Staff on the work of the nursing profession in general, and the National Union of Trained Nurses in particular, in connection with the War. Carrying her audience back to the very earliest days, she gave a brief account of the terrible hardships suffered by the heroic Belgians, our Allies. She spoke of

how the wounded had to be cared for in any sort of building which could be put at their disposal, handicapped by the enormous difficulties of transport—having at times very little nursing equipment, still less of food to give the patients, who were being brought to them in such large numbers that nurses and supplies were all too soon exhausted.

After Belgium came Russia, with even a greater and more pitiful tale of suffering, hardships and cruelty.

Listening to the simply told narrative and looking at the speaker it was hard to realise that she had shared all the privations—that she had been a prisoner in the hands of the Germans—that she knew what it was from painful experience to live on one very scanty meal a day, to be without the most elementary sanitary accommodation, to go a whole month without removing the clothing or being able to indulge in a bath or change of linen—to be actually verminous—and yet to live through it all and to be back again working as eagerly as ever.

In addition to these experiences and her duties as Organizing Secretary of the N.U.T.N., she has written books which make one thrill; her latest now in the Press is called "The People Who Run."

At the close of the lecture a most hearty vote of thanks was accorded by the Matron, Miss Elma Smith, which was carried with acclamation; and the nursing staff gave proof of their appreciation by small donations towards the work of the Society, and others expressed their desire to become members of the National Union of Trained Nurses, so that in some way they could show sympathy with and help on the work of the Society.

THE L.G.B. SCOTLAND EXAMINATION.

On May 16th and subsequent days the Local Government Board for Scotland held an examination for the certification of trained sick nurses, and trained fever nurses, at Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, and Aberdeen. The examiners were Professor Glaister, Dr. Chalmers, Dr. John Gordon, and Dr. Richard, who were assisted in the practical part of the examination by Miss Clark, Matron of King's Cross Hospital, Dundee; and Miss Campbell, Matron of the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow.

In all 502 candidates presented themselves for examination. In Anatomy and Physiology 28 obtained distinction, 173 passed, and 46 failed. In Hygiene and Dietetics, 27 obtained distinction, 150 passed, and 32 failed. In Medical and Surgical Nursing (for Poor Law and General-trained nurses) 3 nurses obtained distinction, 55 passed and 8 failed; (for Fever trained nurses) 4 nurses obtained distinction, 19 passed, and 15 failed. In Midwifery, 33 passed and 9 failed. In Infectious Diseases, 13 obtained distinction, 102 passed and 1 failed.

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