

in last year's report we cannot go forward. Meanwhile, war funds and income tax make terrible demands, and we do not see how to exercise a stricter economy.

To the Editor of the only professional nursing weekly in this country the report of Miss Clara Noyes, President of the Board of Directors of the *American Journal of Nursing*, presented at the New Orleans meeting, is fascinating reading. A new Department—that of Nursing Education—has been started, under the direction of Miss M. Stewart, of Teachers' College; the subscriptions have gone up; a 4 per cent. dividend has been paid by the *Journal Company*; and all the permanent officers are handsomely paid. Yet Miss Bertha J. Gardner, the assistant business manager, is far from satisfied. She said that the loyalty to the *Journal* is far from being what it ought to be, and that to her mind any organization affiliated with the American Nurses' Association should send official reports to no other magazine but their own. We wonder what these keenly professional women would have to say to our methods in this country, whereby for a quarter of a century the only organ the nurses have in the press that supports their professional rights and privileges is largely financed by a staff of honorary workers; whilst nurses supply copy to publications, run for profit alone, which insidiously or openly flout their professional demands. How is that for loyalty, to say nothing of common-sense?

A trained nurse, writing from Melbourne, says:—"I can well imagine you are now up to the neck in the State Registration question. Good luck to you, and may you long be spared to fight for the nurses and their cause. I was almost speechless when I read about the new voluntary scheme. We have since 1901 tried it here, and whilst acknowledging its many good qualities, we soon recognised nothing less than legal status would safeguard and satisfy our nursing members, and incidentally protect the public. We are hoping great things from our next session of Parliament. Can't you foresee how the powers that be are trying hard to get the V.A.D.s registered? Here we are watching like the proverbial cat."

The Act to incorporate the Graduate Nurses of Alberta, which received the Royal Assent on April 19th, is cited as "The Registered Nurses Act," and grants incorporation as a body corporate to the Alberta Association of Graduate Nurses.

A NURSE'S CYCLE ACCIDENT.

INCE v. REIGATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

This appeal from an award of the Judge of the Redhill County Court sitting as arbitrator under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, raised the question of the right of a nurse to recover compensation for an accident to her while she was riding a bicycle in the course of her employment.

The question is so important to trained nurses that we reprint from the report in the *Times* of Monday, July 31st, the leading features of the case:—

The applicant was employed as a visiting nurse on the understanding that she would have to go round her district on a bicycle to all children whose names were sent to the doctor by teachers. She had to ride all over the area of Reigate, Redhill, and Earlswood on a bicycle hired for her. On March 13th, 1915, she met with an accident while so engaged.

The County Court Judge held that the evidence quite clearly established that the applicant was exposed to abnormal risk out of which the accident arose, as she was compelled to be travelling many hours a day on her bicycle over a large area, through which the main London and Brighton road ran, and that the risk was enhanced by her having to be constantly mounting and dismounting after each visit which she made.

The employers appealed.

JUDGMENT.

The MASTER of the ROLLS, in giving judgment, said:—"This appeal raises a question of general interest as to the conditions in which a bicycle accident may establish a claim to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

His Lordship then stated the facts of this case, and, continuing, said that if the County Court Judge had simply stated that the nurse was exposed to "abnormal risk," it might have been difficult for the Court of Appeal to interfere. But he had assigned three reasons, two of which were not supported by the evidence, and the third of which seemed to him (his Lordship) to be irrelevant. In these circumstances he thought it was competent for the Court of Appeal to consider whether the applicant was exposed to abnormal risk. His Lordship was of opinion that she was not. He therefore held that the appeal must be allowed and an award made in favour of the employers.

LORD JUSTICE PICKFORD and LORD JUSTICE WARRINGTON gave judgment to the same effect.

The result of the appeal is most unsatisfactory to trained nurses, especially to district and school nurses, as the greater part of the risks they run are incurred in the streets of cities and the roads and lanes in the country passing from one case to another. We hope the question is not yet disposed of and that the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute will take it up.

Private nurses have long been dissatisfied with the Workmen's Compensation Act, which was certainly not designed to meet their needs.

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