

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES. THE SUPPLY OF NURSES COMMITTEE.

The Autumn Council meeting will take place at the Office, 46, Marsham Road, Westminster, on November 8th and 9th.

A meeting of the Portsmouth Branch of the National Union of Trained Nurses was held recently and a very fair number of nurses attended.

Miss Thurstan spoke on the aims of the Union and the importance of co-operation and organisation for the nursing profession. She afterwards gave an address on Women's Work in Russia. This was followed by tea, the hostess being Miss Shackelford, local secretary of the Portsmouth Branch.

The N.U.T.N. Kalender for 1916-17 is now on sale, and in its very attractive cover, designed by Miss Violetta Thurstan, can be bought for 1s. in support of the good work of the Union. There is a verse for every day in the year, the October theme being "Trees and Forests," and those who have time to escape the treadmill of work in cities know how exquisite a world now lies without. A little party of tired organisers, thanks to a rich fairy who lent them a car, recently found themselves in a wonder forest. Soft green mosses and crisp russet leaves underfoot, a wealth of bracken and crimson king-cups to hand, a sportive wind playing pranks with the glorious beeches, and all this beauty but an hour's run from Grub Street!

The earthy smell of the forest loam,
When the stealthy sad-heart leaves go home.
O leaves! O leaves! I am one with you
Of the mould and the sea and the wind and the dew.

Many shillings' worth of delight has been caught and imprisoned between the covers of the Kalender of the Union, which has "*Per ardua ad astra*" for its motto.

MRS. STRONG STANDS FOR LEGAL REGISTRATION.

In an interview with Miss Eden, Mrs. Strong, President of the Scottish Nurses' Association, and formerly Matron of Glasgow Royal Infirmary, expressed the conviction that it was worse than useless for nurses to register under a voluntary scheme such as the College, but that they should wait until a Bill of which they approved had been passed by Parliament, when registration would have the necessary backing of the State.

She felt that it was of the utmost importance that the nurses' societies should combine to claim the right of direct representation on the first Council under the Act, as the whole question of democratic control was involved in this principle.

Mrs. Strong also holds that preliminary training in hygiene, anatomy and elementary ward work is essential for probationers before they actually commence work in hospital, and she would like to see such training made obligatory.

The following communication is being sent to the Secretaries of Hospitals from the War Office:—
ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE WAR OFFICE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE SUPPLY OF NURSES.

Sir,—I am directed by the above-named Committee to enquire if you would be willing to assist them by stating in regard to the hospital which you represent:—

1. The number of beds (a) equipped, (b) occupied.
2. (a) The number of nurses holding a certificate for three years' training.
(b) The number of nurses due to be certified during the next twelve months, and at what date they will pass out.
(c) The remainder of the staff.
3. Please state the present number of the Private Nursing Staff if any.

The Committee will greatly appreciate an early reply to this letter, addressed to me at the War Office, marked "Supply of Nurses Committee."

Your obedient servant,

T. R. WALROND,

Secretary of the Committee.

If only this enquiry had been undertaken, as we suggested, two years ago, imagine what muddles might have been avoided! Better late than never.

STATE REGISTRATION IN VICTORIA.

A correspondent from Victoria writes (date, August 30th): "We are in the highest stage of excitement, *re* our Nurses' Bill; it is again before the State Parliament. One section favour a Board and *personnel* as suggested by our Council—the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association; the other wish to put us trained nurses under the Board already appointed by the Midwives' Act—on which there is not one nurse member! So you can imagine with what feelings we await the issue. In our Midwives' Act there are elaborate clauses, the usual *musts*, &c.; and, so far, there are no inspectors to see that the rules are even read. We nurses see grave danger in this direction. . . . I am passing THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING on to the Nurses' Club, and thus hope to arouse interest in the trials and troubles of the British Nurse. I feel I can never thank you enough for what you are doing for our profession; it is an inspiration throughout the whole nursing world. I wish you luck with your Registration Bill, which provides *just* legislation for trained nurses."

We wonder what has been the result in the Victorian Parliament! It seems incredible that Victorian nurses who are enfranchised should permit themselves to be deprived of their professional vote, without very strenuous opposition. It is to be regretted that the policy of their own organ is not controlled by a professional woman. That is the inspiration of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

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