

No one knows better than the trained nurse the disastrous results of the drug habit, and they have much power to mitigate this evil whenever suspected. We note with satisfaction that the Government has decided to take steps to control the sale of cocaine, and is understood to have been persuaded to that end by quite a formidable dossier on the subject prepared by the police for the Home Office.

#### PROBLEMS OF THE FUTURE.

Under the above heading the *South African Nursing Record* has an excellent article on the absolute necessity for State Registration of Trained Nurses throughout the Union, and incidentally proves that to be effective trained nurses must have sufficient direct representation to make any registration system really effective. Registration of nurses, conducted by a medical council, even with the best intentions, has not been a success; and the nurses realise that in the near future they must take part in their own government or worse will befall.

To quote this excellent editorial article,

#### UNJUST COMPETITION.

"The South African nursing profession never realised how many things wanted putting right until it banded itself together into a Trained Nurses' Association, and began to think things out, and now new ideas and new aspects crop up every day.

"But in spite of all we have suffered, we are likely to suffer much more during the next five years and, worst of all, unless we grasp the situation with a firm hand now, we are likely to allow the position to lapse into unutterable chaos from which we will only now, if ever, recover. We are liable to lose grasp of the situation altogether unless we prepare ourselves to meet it in the very near future.

"We do not intend to make any lengthy reference to the conditions we may expect after the War. Unless V.A.D. members are employed in South Africa (which is possible, but not yet a fact), we shall not be so unfortunately placed as our overseas sisters. For them the problem of the half-trained war nurse is going to be a very difficult one indeed. And if it should be found necessary to employ untrained women as probationers in military hospitals in this country, then we, too, must look to our guns. We must take steps to safeguard our position, for the amount of abuse is and would be just as great here as at home. And we would urge the profession to be prepared beforehand, to know how and what they would do to protect themselves should this menace occur, and have a plan of action mapped out; for, should we find South Africa flooded with V.A.D. probationers after the War, then our position, already critical enough, would be infinitely worse, and the scale of justice might thereby be turned against us and take years to recover its balance. Therefore our watchword must be that of the Boy Scouts—be prepared."

## FOR SERVICES RENDERED.

### SILVER BADGES FOR SOLDIERS AND NURSES.

It is officially announced that on the recommendation of the Army Council the King has approved the issue of a silver badge to officers and men of the British, Indian and Oversea Forces who have served at home or abroad since August 4th, 1914, and who on account of age or physical infirmity arising from wounds or sickness caused by military service have, in the case of officers, retired or relinquished their commissions, or, in the case of men, been discharged from the Army.

The badge will also be awarded to members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Regular, Reserve and Territorial Force, Queen Alexandra's Nursing Service for India, and members of Voluntary Aid Detachments who have quitted the Service under the above conditions; also to civil practitioners and to other civilians who, having occupied positions normally held by officers or other ranks of the Royal Army Medical



Corps under a fixed agreement for a period of service, have been forced to resign from physical incapacity caused by military service.

The badge is in the form of a circle, an inch and a quarter in diameter. The circle bears the words "For King and Empire—Services rendered," and circumscribes the Imperial cipher surmounted by a crown. It will be worn on the right breast or on the right lapel of the jacket with plain clothes only.

Owing to the large number of badges required and the arrangements to be made for their distribution, it will be some time before the actual issues can be made, but as soon as possible full instructions will be published as to when and to whom applications from persons entitled to the badges are to be submitted.

It is also announced by the Admiralty that a similar badge will be issued to officers and men of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, and to members of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service who have quitted the service, under parallel conditions. Applications should not be made until full information as to the manner in which the badges will be issued has been published.

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