

We would advise trained nurses, Poor Law and otherwise, never to place themselves in so dangerous a position as to give any body "absolute authority" to speak upon their behalf. Let them organize and speak upon their own behalf. This "absolutism" is the basis of professional complaint against the Nursing College constitution. The nursing profession has had a nominated Council to deal with its affairs thrust upon it by a limited company, and it has no intention of submitting to such jurisdiction. Hence the agitation upon the part of organized nurses that an agreed Bill shall be drafted, without delay, providing for direct representation of the nurses themselves on any governing body which they may be called upon to obey. On such a body Poor Law Nurses should urge that non-professional representation should be provided for through the Local Government Boards in the United Kingdom, and that organizations of workhouse and other lay officials, such as the Poor Law Officers' Association, and the Association of Masters and Matrons of Poor Law Institutions, have no right whatever to seats on the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession, any more than they have on the General Medical Council or the Midwives Board. Unless the General Nursing Council is primarily a Council of directly elected nursing experts, it will never command the confidence and support of the profession as a whole. Any attempt upon the part of employers or their representatives to "noble" control of the nursing profession will inevitably result in a prolonged struggle, with disastrous results. Such an economic struggle can and should be avoided.

Fourteen Leeds nurses, who were successful in passing the final examination of the Leeds Township Infirmary Nurses' League, were presented with badges at the Infirmary, Beckett Street, on July 21st, by the Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Charles Lupton).

The Rev. W. H. Stansfield, chairman of the Leeds Board of Guardians, who presided, paid a tribute to the work of the nurses, and remarked that, twenty-five years ago, there was not a trained nurse at the Infirmary in Beckett Street. The League had done good work for the nurses, and at the present time there were about 115 nurses on the staff. In his opinion, the nursing school at the Infirmary was one of the finest in the country.

At the Quarterly Meeting, held at 73, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, of the Council of King Edward's Coronation Fund for Nurses, Miss Kelly in the Chair, nurses received grants amounting to £24 3s. 6d.

CARE OF THE SCHOOL CHILD.

SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE ADOLESCENT BOY AND GIRL.

The lecture given by Mr. Reginald Bray, Chairman of the London Juvenile Advisory Committee, at the London Day Training College, on July 19th, was listened to with great interest by those who were privileged to hear it. The lecturer spoke from the standpoint of intimate knowledge, therefore with authority and sympathy. His main points were those of health and employment. In his opinion the Factory Act, so far as it concerns the inspection of children over the age of 14, greatly needs amending. The bad points about it are (1) that the doctor is a private practitioner; and (2) that he is paid by the employer and not by a Public Body. The examination is perfunctory and far from thorough. He instanced one case in which a doctor had never been known to reject a child on the ground of ill-health. (3) There is no provision made for after-care supervision. The health of the adolescent boy and girl is therefore sacrificed to ineffective legislation. On the other hand, mitigation of the evil is found in a new organisation which has in the past few years grown in strength and value to the adolescent boy and girl. Committees have been formed for the express purpose of assisting boys and girls in seeking and choosing suitable employment after they leave school. This is called the Juvenile Employment Committee. The Central Committee organises local ones, and they all work in connection with the Labour Exchanges. The membership consists of representatives of the following bodies:—School Care Committee Teachers, Employers, Trade Unions and one doctor.

In the following classification it will be seen how systematic and thorough the work is:—

(1) When the child is about to leave school. The question of employment is then brought before the parents; the "school-leaving form" is given to the child, and the particulars of the child's career and the report of the school doctor are entered upon it. A meeting is held to which the parents are invited; neither they nor their children have, as a rule, any particular views, and are glad of the advice offered. The child's taste, ability and health are all considered.

(2) The Committee then goes to work, aided by the Labour Exchange, to find suitable employment; the latter makes special canvass to obtain the required vacancy, always bearing in mind the *suitability* of the employment.

(3) The Committee endeavours to keep in touch with the child after entering employment.

This most valuable part of the work is undertaken by voluntary workers, of whom there are between three and four thousand. If the child's health suffers from the nature of the employment, he or she is advised to leave, and fresh employment found. The purpose of this excellent organisation is to study first-hand the problem

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