

were mobilised, and many others volunteered. The economic question which had to be faced was how to run the Co-operation, so that after the war the members might return and find well-paid work waiting for them. It was decided that if the business bringing in eleven thousand pounds a year was to be kept going, the members should recognise their business obligations to their colleagues who would carry on the Co-operation in their absence, by contributing the usual  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and pay  $3\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. on two guineas a week per annum.

To the credit of those members who understood business, this appeared an equitable arrangement, but to those who have never realised that "co-operation" means co-operative obligation, as well as co-operative gain, it was thought "very hard indeed," and several resignations were received. It is the story of the wise and foolish virgins to the letter. The "everything for nothing" nurse, when she returns after several years of hard war work—we fear somewhat tired and aged—must seek fresh work in an overstocked market, but the "give and take" nurse will find good work awaiting her in her own Co-operation, which she has wisely helped by a little self-sacrifice to maintain during the disruption of nursing economics during the war.

We point the moral of this episode in the hope that trained professional nurses, competing in the open market, will realise as men do, that "you can't pour out of a pitcher what isn't in it." If you don't place your pence in the jug, it is not fair that you should dive in for golden sovereigns.

The Annual Meeting of the East London Nursing Society was held by kind permission of Lord and Lady Glenconner at 34, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W., on March 20th. Sir William Collins, M.D., M.P., K.C.V.O., presided, in the unavoidable absence of the host.

The meeting was a bright and animated one, and should have been inspired by the beautiful room, overlooking the Park, in which it was held, containing many priceless portraits by Romney, Gainsborough, Sir Joshua Reynolds, and other great masters.

The Chairman, in his opening remarks, quoted Miss Nightingale's word that nothing second best was good enough for the sick poor. Though there were other names associated with the pioneer nursing at that time, still he would say that district nursing was the "prolonged shadow" of Florence Nightingale. He ventured to think that State-supported societies could never have the same value as those supported by voluntary effort. They should be

organised, but not officialised. The Bishop of London said that it was the very best society in East London, and he was sorry to say there was a deficit on it. It made him impatient when people took subscriptions from one charity to give to another. Would it, did the audience think, please the men in the trenches if their mothers and children died at home for want of proper attention? £2,500 a year only was required to maintain these nurses, and it was absurd to say that this sum would count in the five to six millions that were daily being spent upon the war.

The Rev. Benjamin Gregory, East London Mission, said he could not conceive of services more highly valued, more deeply needed, or more nobly rendered than those given by the East London nurses.

The shortage of nurses and consequent difficulty of getting the work done has been an outstanding feature of the past year.

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