

shop, so that they may again fulfil their proper end. A find of leather in a wayside rubbish heap furnished materials worth about  $\frac{1}{4}$  million marks, but even a bootlace is not despised.

A village pond glitters peacefully in the sunshine. The zealous Collecting Company suspects more in it than fish, and pumping it dry discovers heaps of weapons and munitions left hidden by the retreating French. Nothing is safe from the eye of the Collecting Company, either above or below ground.

Now they are peaceful harvesters of hay or fruit, next moment they may be gathering bits of rifles and fragments of shells, forced as they work, to take cover from the enemy's fire. Here they find hidden stores of wine—there of ammunition.

Their work would be in vain if the whole army did not help them. It is therefore an important part of the Collector's duty to stir up other people to help and to give them the chance of doing it. So there are collecting stations at many places, where everyone gives up his treasure and gets a receipt to take to his paymaster for a reward. The romantic touch is missing, but the importance of the Collector's calling in both military and civil life is clear. If ever in peace time it was almost possible for a philanthropic society to be maintained entirely by collecting things useless to their owners, naturally in war time, with the decreased imports many an article once carelessly thrown away has become invaluable. The number of empty bottles obtained by the Collecting Company is reckoned in millions and shows the importance of detail work. These are sent to the great bottle collecting station; and sorted into 85 different kinds.

It is the same with the old metal; the secret of success in this work lies in the sorting. Each heap of material given in, is at once divided up.

Fortune still lies in the street for those who know how to look for it. Everything is collectable, corks, rags, paper in addition to the things mentioned above, everything brings to the economical finder a reward for the collection, as well as the feeling that he is discharging a National duty.

#### THE ST. MARYLEBONE NURSING HOMES WAR SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

A useful association bearing the above name was inaugurated at a meeting at 2, Park Square, W., under the chairmanship of Mr. Boyton, M.P. Miss Rowell, 49, Beaumont Street, has kindly offered to have the meetings at her house, and Mrs. Lauriston Shaw to explain the details of the scheme. Meetings were held for nurses on Wednesday and Thursday, April 11th and 12th, at 2.30 p.m., and one will be held for the domestic staffs on Wednesday, April 18th, at 3 p.m. Although primarily organised in connection with Nursing Homes, other residents in Marylebone, and members of the domestic staff of any household in the borough are eligible. There will be two separate branches so that the domestics may not have to compete for early certificates with any but themselves.

#### NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

##### NEW APPOINTMENTS.

*Addington Park War Hospital.*—Mrs. Clarke (Staff Nurse).

*Exeter V.A. Hospital.*—Miss Howell, Mrs. Kerrigan (Sisters), Miss Ridge.

*Terry Hill V.A. Hospital.*—Miss Bousfield (Matron).

*Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton.*—Miss J. Knox (Sister).

##### THE MANCHESTER BRANCH.

We have received several letters from Manchester approving of our remarks on the autocratic attitude of Miss Sparshott, the Chairman of the Manchester Branch of the N.U.T.N., and pointing out that so long as this lady, as Lady Superintendent of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, is empowered to qualify the Nurses' Certificates, a free expression of opinion cannot be expected from them on the Nursing College question.

We are of opinion that it is high time the authorities of the M.R.I. determinedly discountenanced any coercion of their nursing staff in this connection.

It is absurd to say that nurses of any hospital are free agents if the Matron is a partisan member of the Nursing College Council.

We learn that medical opinion in Manchester is by no means satisfied with the *status quo*.

##### THE WAR AND STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

*The American Journal of Nursing* for March contains a very illuminating and logical article by Miss Eden, entitled "The War and State Registration of Nurses." It is very necessary that our sympathetic colleagues in the United States should be kept enlightened on the present phase of the nursing controversy in this country, as they have followed it with understanding and no little indignation, for so many years.

This admirable article concludes:—

"We are at the parting of the ways. One road looks pleasant and easy. You just put a penny in the slot (a guinea as a matter of fact), and the college does the rest. If you take the other road, you will be asked to do some hard thinking, attend meetings, read up subjects, perhaps oppose the opinions of those in high places. But whither do the roads lead? One will lead to lay control, to the deadening of the intellectual level, to the paralyzing of independence of thought and expression, to economic dependence and the consequent lowering of the standards of the profession. The other road will lead to the control of the profession by those who best understand its needs; and this will bring with it a quickening of the sense of responsibility towards and pride in the profession. The power of judgment and the faculty of expression will be developed, the influence of nursing opinion will then make itself felt, and better conditions will be the result, not only for nurses themselves, but for the public, which is dependent on their efficiency."

This is how *real* registrationists feel on both sides of the Atlantic.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)