

The Lord Mayor of Cardiff (Mr. J. Stanfield) presided at the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses held at the City Hall on Tuesday in last week. Speaking in support of the report, Major Ewen J. Maclean pointed out that the medical and surgical triumphs of the day were in a large measure based upon the skill of trained and efficient nurses. Having regard for the critical days ahead in the nursing profession and the need for the enhancing of emolument, there should, he thought, be State registration of nurses. He believed and hoped the time was coming when the services of the Queen's nurses would be recognised. Their work enhanced such developments as were on foot in Cardiff with regard to maternity and child welfare, which would probably double the cases treated when the scheme of the local health authorities came into effect. All this would make the country more worth living in, and to some extent would prevent emigration of soldiers to our Colonies and to the United States at the end of the war.

The Council of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association expressed its appreciation at a recent meeting of the following expression of opinion on "Nursing" in the Report of the Inspector of Charities and Charitable Institutions:—

"Of all the occupations in life requiring skilful knowledge, that of Nursing is the most unsatisfactory.

"The nurse has no legal recognition, consequently no rights, and no protection; yet she is indispensable in the interests of the public; the issues of life and death are involved in the skill with which she performs her duties. It is essential above all things that she should be qualified, and it is equally essential that none but the qualified should be allowed to practise for gain as qualified nurses, so that the public may have a guarantee that when they pay for a trained nurse they are in the hands of one who is qualified. This can only be brought about by legislation. The passing of the Bill, 'To regulate the Qualifications of Trained Nurses and to provide for their Registration, &c.,' would give to nurses and the public the security so much required by both.

"This State has every reason to be proud of its nurses. They have shown marked ability, and hold their own with nurses anywhere in the world. The heroism they have displayed in nursing cerebro-spinal meningitis and other highly infectious diseases is beyond all praise. They have faced a deadly unseen enemy, and while they were given the option of refusing to go into the ward, not one ever flinched from facing the ordeal. It is difficult to conceive of greater self-sacrifice than this.

"There are undoubtedly heroes in the trenches, but there are also heroines in the hospitals. They are deserving of legislative protection."

THE INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITAL OFFICERS AND HOSPITAL MATRONS.

The above Association, of which Mr. F. A. Hocking, B.Sc., Pharmacist, London Hospital, is President, and which includes many progressive Secretaries of hospitals amongst its members, has issued a letter to hospital Matrons, which states: "This Association was founded in 1902, and suggestions have been made at various times since its inception, that the Association should admit to its membership, Matrons, Assistant Matrons, and other Nurses holding administrative positions in hospitals. The Council would be prepared to organise a meeting to discuss a proposal that nursing officials shall be admitted to membership of a special (Nursing) branch, which shall appoint its own officers and council, and have a section of the *Hospital Gazette* devoted to its interests. Before proceeding with such a scheme, they desire to ascertain whether it would be acceptable to those whom it is intended to benefit." The signatories of the letter ask for the opinion of those to whom it is addressed.

May we recall past history. The Incorporated Association of Hospital Officers is the outcome of the now defunct Hospitals Association. This Association had a Nursing Section, whose decisions were overridden, by the Council, on the Registration of Nurses question in 1887, upon which the Matron members resigned in a body and founded the British Nurses' Association.

Surely the Matron of a hospital is an "officer," and is or should be eligible for membership of any Association incorporated under the above title.

Why restrict nursing officials to a special branch? They have their own professional organisations and the day has gone by for keeping women in water-tight compartments so far as humanity is concerned. In the prevention of human wreckage through bad social conditions, in the administration of organised relief, in the building up of the moral and physical power of the people, together men and women must do these things—if they are to realise the highest value.

Admit Matrons and other women holding administrative positions in hospitals to full membership of the Incorporated Association of Hospital Officers by all means, and let it avail itself of their special knowledge and help.

Our advice to women is to refuse to be relegated to sex compounds when helping with social reform; it is only waste of valuable time. Great is mother spirit and free and unfettered, the world was never in greater need of it.

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