

**HAMMERING OUT AN INSTRUMENT.**

In a debate in the House of Commons on Monday on the Government's proposal of a Convention of Irish representatives to consider Home Rule, the Prime Minister explained that the proposal was "that Ireland should try her own hand at hammering out an instrument of government for her own people."

We take it that is exactly what the Irish nurses and doctors are doing in forming the Irish Nursing Board to organise their nursing affairs. We shall watch their proceedings with keen interest, wish them all success, and no further meddle therein.

We are asked to contradict the statement made in the *Nursing Times* last week that the editor received the above draft scheme "from the hon. secretaries (the Misses M. Huxley, M. O'Flynn, A. Carson-Rae, L. Ramsden, A. Reeves, and V. Roberts)." With one exception none of these ladies knew that the document had been sent as it was considered confidential until brought before their meeting held at the Royal College of Surgeons on Friday, the 18th inst. It is to be hoped they will receive the apology which is their due.

**MENTAL NURSES AND REGISTRATION.**

We cull the following paragraph from the annual report of the Asylum Workers' Association:

"The scheme of legislation by the College of Nursing, Ltd., for the State Registration of Nurses has also engaged the anxious attention of the Executive Committee, and in conjunction with the Medico-Psychological Association (who for more than a quarter-of-a-century have carried out a complete and uniform scheme of training, examination and registration for Asylum Nurses, male and female, throughout Great Britain and Ireland and some of the Overseas Dominions), they have claimed for Mental Nurses, as a matter of right, equality of privilege with nurses trained in ordinary hospital work. The position at present is somewhat complicated, owing to an amalgamation having been agreed on by the College of Nursing and the chartered Royal British Nurses' Association, which is now awaiting the decision of the Privy Council, but whatever may be the upshot, trained Mental Nurses (of both sexes) may rely upon the support of this Association to secure their just rights with regard to equitable representation on the body controlling registration and other matters affecting their interests, should any project of legislation be brought forward."

Queen Alexandra visited the London Hospital on Monday to open the Queen Alexandra Nursing Home for sick nurses, and, during her visit, presented the Royal Red Cross to the Matron, Miss Lückes.

**NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.****VOLUNTARY WAR REGISTER FOR NURSES.**

Owing to Lord Derby's appeal for Nurses for the War Office, it has been decided to close the Register conducted by the National Union of Trained Nurses, which has been at work ever since August 8th, 1914, during which time some thousands of nurses have passed through the books. Miss E. M. Pye was Secretary of the Union when war broke out, and she promptly called an Emergency Meeting of the Executive Committee, who decided unanimously "To offer the use of the Office as a clearing house for the registration of trained nurses, and for societies and institutions requiring their services."

In a very short time interviewing Matrons were appointed in London, and all over Great Britain, and thanks to the energy of Miss Pye, the machinery of the only professional mobilization of nurses for war was soon in working order.

A large number of nurses immediately applied. Every nurse was interviewed by a professional woman, and references were carefully taken up, only fully trained nurses being sent abroad.

The following points are worthy of record. One is, that a society of nurses was ready and able, at a time of national emergency, to rapidly mobilise the unorganised nursing force of the country.

Another is, that such a professionally conducted register managed by women who know the requirements and who are, moreover, anxious to help nurses in every way, has proved itself to be greatly appreciated by both institutions and nurses. And, finally, we testify to the generous and self-sacrificing way in which nurses, at that time, offered their services voluntarily, or in return for infinitesimal salaries, asking only that they might be sent where the need was greatest.

The Union will gladly continue to advise Colonial and other nurses who write to or call at the Office, 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, S. W. 1.

**NEW APPOINTMENTS.**

*Cirencester Red Cross Hospital.*—Miss N. C. Iles (Sister).

*Exeter V. A. Hospital.*—Miss M. Godwin (Sister).

*Sutton Red Cross Hospital.*—Miss A. Jameson (Sister).

*Private Post.*—Miss Brender.

**A SAD DISASTER.**

A very sad disaster was reported from New York on Tuesday that the *Mongolia* (Atlantic Transport Line), with a hospital unit on board, returned to port with the bodies of two nurses, Mrs. Edith E. Ayres, of Chicago, and Helen Wood, of Evanston, Illinois. They were killed by a shell explosion during target practice. Another was seriously injured.

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