

sacrifice can be counted upon. Mr. Hughes invited them to join in support of the War Savings movement.

THE HONBLE. ALBINA BRODRICK said she did not wish to strike a discordant note. When first the question of bread rations came in she arranged her rations accordingly, and kept within the mark. She criticised the action of the Government in regard to barley which is converted into drink, and which is still offered to the brewers, and must be offered to them before the millers. Brewing necessitates the use not only of barley but of sugar, and she thought some big attempt should be made to deal with this matter. The Government could settle it in ten minutes. Mr. Lloyd George was not a stickler for ceremony.

To this MR. HUGHES replied that he was much in sympathy with the speaker, but that the majority of people in the country want drink, and a democratic Government cannot legislate against their wishes.

A member from Leicester, who said that her staff was already saving, was advised to affiliate with the larger body, Contributions might be 6d. or any multiple of 6d.

A cordial vote of thanks to the speaker was moved by Miss Mowbray, and the Chairman, in conveying it, asked why nurses tolerated the conditions under which they worked.

She also expressed anxiety that the nation's views should penetrate to Government Departments. Production is going down. The scale of income for those living on separation allowances and the allowances for children are insufficient. There is one direction in which we cannot economise, and that is in life. Life must be safeguarded in every aspect; we have got to keep the men at the front, but we must safeguard life in every aspect, and we must insist that the necessaries of life are secured.

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH.

The morning session on Saturday, at which Mr. Stephen Paget, F.R.C.S., presided, was devoted to a paper on "Developments in Public Health Work," by Dr. Thomas, assistant to the Medical Officer to the London County Council—a most illuminating and lucid paper, to which, in a later issue, we propose to devote more space than is possible at the present time, and a second paper on "The Health and Character Training of Children," by Miss Norah March, B.Sc.

In the afternoon the chair was occupied by Miss Thurston, Matron-in-Chief, New Zealand Expeditionary Force, when the Honble. Albinia Brodrick presented a paper on

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ORGANISATION.

Miss Brodrick said in part:—

Madam President, Comrades,—

I have been asked to take as our subject to-day, "Professional Development and Organization." This subject is of immense importance to us all,

reaching down to causes and the root of our profession.

The keynotes of our talk to-day are Democracy, Comradeship, Organization. For there are summed up the whole policy of our National Union of Trained Nurses, and of that future policy which shall, in days to come—when the awful din of battles has died away, by the mercy of God—govern our beloved profession throughout the world.

#### DEMOCRACY.

No student of English history of the nineteenth and the few years of the present century can fail to be struck with the significant changes which have taken place in Government (its passage from the hands of autocracy to those of the aristocracy, this in its turn being captured by the plutocracy) and now their turn has also come, they, too, must give way to the forceful power of the Democracy, the Will of the People.

As in the Government of the State, so also in our profession the day is passing and will soon be passed when the rich and the titled and the amateur will hold sway and grind, as they have ground in the past, the face of the majority. For, as nurses, there is nothing to fear from the people. We have known them in their getting up and in their lying down, at the beginning and the ending of this little life of ours. In their joys and in their sorrows we have known and loved them because we do know them, because we understood; more than that, because we are ourselves of the Democracy.

For us there is no rank, no riches, no poverty, race and nation, friend and foe. Black, brown, yellow or white, they are all alike to us, for all are ours! To us the cretin and the idiot are our brothers, and we dare to claim as our sister the poor discarded prostitute. Government by the will of the people! Is not that the ideal towards which our profession is striving slowly, yet surely. We, of the rank and file, know well our bitter griefs and grievances, what time the amateur, the laywoman, yes, and even the layman has endeavoured each in his or her ignorant unskilled way to control our profession. We have suffered as individuals, we have suffered as a body, we have suffered most of all as an honourable profession ground down under the heel of ignorance.

But that day of irresponsible power, of shameless profiteering is passing, and in our profession it is sliding slowly but surely into the abyss of oblivion. The day of brain power, of working power is at last upon us, thanks be to God. Out of the criminal muddling of the War Office in the Crimea sprang the first tiny seed of the nursing profession, which for sixty years has been struggling upwards through days of storm and stress, neglected, unrecognized, uncared for. But that seed stands to-day, my sisters, as a mighty tree, whose roots lie deep in the hearts of the people, and whose branches stretch their health-giving shade out to the ends of the earth. The leaves of that tree are for the healing of the nations.

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