

members of the Society, an alteration of title to show that the Society is not confined to mass-houses, the provision of further extra metropolitan centres having direct representation on the Central Council, and of extra metropolitan centres where examinations are to be held, as well as other matters of importance to the welfare of massage.

In view of these negotiations the Council of the I.M.R.G. had felt that it was essential to restrict their activities as far as possible in order not to prejudice these proceedings.

On behalf of the Council of the I.M.R.G., the Chairman strongly urged members to accept amalgamation with the re-constituted I.S.T.M., whose members would be approached by their own Council, suggesting amalgamation with the I.M.R.G. Both bodies hoped by amalgamation to secure what was so essential in the interests of massage generally, a uniform training and a "one portal" examination system.

On the proposal of Mr. W. Armitage, Chairman of the Ancoats Hospital, seconded by Mr. Hazell, Superintendent of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, and supported by Miss Sparshott, Matron of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, and other speakers, it was unanimously agreed to authorise the Executive to proceed with negotiations with a view to amalgamation with the I.S.T.M.

CITIZENS OF THE WORLD.

By LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

The war is teaching many lessons, all of which could have been learned under a less terrible master, if we did not close our eyes, and one is that nurses of all the British Dominions are realising their common citizenship in the one nation whose central point is Great Britain. Australian, Canadian and New Zealand nurses have had pressed on their attention the far greater difficulties those at home in England have met, in their efforts at professional advancement. As yet they have not gained the political status of the Colonials, nor have they been able to protect their professional standards as well. Soon, however, these disabilities will be lessened. Upon the final passage of the Bill in Parliament, dealing among other things with woman suffrage (which cannot possibly fail as everyone agrees, because the war for England has concededly been saved by the work of women), many nurses will attain the Parliamentary vote, and can begin to organise afresh for the aims of good nursing education, in exerting unitedly their political power.

The franchise promised to Englishwomen still seems strangely grudging in comparison with the debt the country owes them: besides the residence qualification (which is fair and equal, as it also applies to men), they are to be held back until they are thirty years old. Yet in spite of this jealous discrimination the women of England will secure

an immense advantage from which to work for complete equality. Nurses on institution staffs will not possess the vote, because they do not pay board; and this is a great pity, for it is often just those nurses who gain a wider public view of the needs of their entire profession, both nationally and internationally, and are better able to devote part of their time to the larger nursing affairs. All nurses, however, who pay rent or board, on reaching thirty, may qualify; and this will include, happily, such groups as school and municipal and health conserving nurses and all those intelligently organised ones who live in co-operative nursing homes where each one pays for her room. Many private duty nurses can thus qualify, if they will, but, alas! if private duty abroad is no more stimulating to outside interests than it is here, we fear that the number of keen, active voters and workers for good government and self-government in the ranks of nursing will be small, and that the British campaign for State Registration will still be carried on by the faithful few who have borne the entire burden in the past. Nevertheless, those few, we are convinced, will lead the way to victory, and already their souls are cheered by the light coming toward them.

The self-governing groups of nurses are all holding aloof from the College of Nursing in the matter of State Registration, and will, if necessary, introduce their own Bill into Parliament rather than recognise it so long as nurses are not properly represented on its controlling body. (There are right and wrong ways of being on Boards!) Many interesting large questions will be open for nurses to snare in.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, that many-sided, broadly interested organ of the "Intelligentsia," in its issue of September 8th, announces the formation of a new political party to be headed by those who are sick of the corruption and selfish shortsightedness of partisan politics. It is to be called the National Party, and one of its supporters in Parliament is Lord Amptill, who so well championed the Nurses' Registration Act a few years ago. Its planks are such as to attract many women, and we hope that nurses will adhere to it in numbers, for it looks toward a unified and intelligent national plan, and it would be too sad if the new citizens merely joined the decayed old parties and became mouthpieces for the stale, old cries of clan warfare. It is our belief that only through a higher form of nationalism can the world arrive finally at the ideal—true, genuine internationalism based on universal justice, regard for the rights of others, chivalrous defence of the weak, and respect for human personality. But war does not instil these ideals, and earnestly do we hope that after the war women will reject once and for all the leading strings put upon peoples in the past by groups of selfish, irresponsible rulers. (We mean not only kings and emperors: there are others of their kind who have no titles.)—*The American Journal of Nursing.*

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