

Miss Helen Todd whom the League has elected as its new President, in addition to holding the three years' certificate of St. Bartholomew's Hospital was for eight years Matron of the Royal National Sanatorium for Consumption, Bournemouth, and afterwards Matron of the Wandsworth Infirmary, a position she relinquished on being offered the post of Woman Inspector under the Local Government Board by Mr. John Burns when President of that Department. She at present holds the position of Inspector under the National Insurance Commission (England).

### THE NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Report of the National Union of Trained Nurses for 1916-1917 is, in spite of the war, a record of much good work accomplished; although eleven Branches are in abeyance during the war. Naturally patriotic nurses want to help the sick and wounded at home and abroad, and the departure of Miss Thurstan and Miss Cancellor to La Panne has thrown an immense amount of work on those left behind. Together Miss Eden and Miss Rimmer have risen splendidly to the occasion, and have kept the Union well to the fore in these turbulent and progressive times. We note that "the Union has fought against the indifference to professional development and organisation from the first, and it has met with a large measure of success. Our real reason for existence is to draw out and develop the sense of responsibility of the nurse for her profession, because we know that only in that way will the highest be attained to. That is the deeper meaning of the expressions 'direct representation' and 'self-governance,' and the real reason for our earnest request that the nurses' societies should be accorded representation on the Council for State Registration."

"Your delegates on the Central Committee for State Registration have consistently voted in support of the principles adopted at the last Council Meeting; (1) Registration by the State, (2) one central examination, (3) a registered and protected title for the registered nurse, and (4) a first Council elected and not nominated."

433 full members have been elected during the year, and each one is invited to obtain three more during the coming year, as it is only by numbers that the small subscription can make the Union self-supporting. Write for a copy of the Report, price 2½d., to 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W.; it will well repay close study as a model of accurate detail.

We are informed that Mrs. Northwood and Miss Simpson, of the Ladies' Residential Club, 6, Nottingham Place, W., have dissolved partnership, and the latter vacated office on Saturday last. It is scarcely necessary to those who know Mrs. Northwood to say that visitors will be received with every courtesy and consideration.

### POOR LAW NURSES AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

We reprint the following report of business which took place at the Board of Guardians of the Kingston Hill Infirmary, from the *Surrey Comet* of June 27th, as for the first time we note that the Nursing Staff of the institution is to be consulted, and the question of the College of Nursing explained to them by the Board before being rushed into membership of that organisation. This is a healthy sign, but we are of opinion that the College policy should be placed before the nurses by one of their own profession as well as by the Board, who are their employers, and who with the best intentions in the world, cannot represent professional nursing opinion.

#### "A QUESTION FOR THE NURSES.

"Pursuant to the notice on the agenda, the Board considered a circular letter from the Association of Poor Law Unions, and one from the President of the National Poor Law Officers' Association, regarding the representation of Poor Law nurses on the Council of the College of Nursing.

"The Vice-Chairman said on a previous occasion he had overlooked the fact that it was not so much a question of convincing the Guardians that the Poor Law Association should receive the strongest possible support in their contest with the College of Nursing, as it was a matter on which the nurses themselves should be enlightened. It seemed strange that after the Association had fought so hard to place the Poor Law nurses on an equality with hospital nurses, their own nurses should be so perfectly indifferent or should have failed to realise what was the object of the petition they were asked to sign. It would be very helpful if they knew which of the clauses in the petition they took exception to, or in fact to know on what grounds they refused their support. If they were under the impression that they would be obliged to join the Poor Law Officers' Association, that was distinctly not the case. Any support given to strengthen the Poor Law Association in their efforts entailed no obligation to join any organisation. The Vice-Chairman proceeded at some length to outline the movement.

"Mr. Hattatt said that the committee had been told that the nurses preferred to remain under the Guardians' Institution, but the more he had considered the College of Nursing the more necessary he thought it was that every Poor Law Institution should take this question up.

"Lady Anderson said it was a very complicated question, and she was in favour of taking no action.

"The Rev. C. J. Harris said it might be that this was the one organisation that would carry through the reforms that the nursing world so much needed. If so they should do all in their power to help them.

"The Vice-Chairman said the College would be for nurses what the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons were for the

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