

all day and then to spend anxious nights, in the case, at any rate, of those in responsible charge of the patients, ensuring that they are placed in the positions of greatest safety and keeping them as cheerful as possible under trying conditions, sometimes for several nights in succession, is work which is quite as onerous as that performed by nurses "at the front" abroad. Indeed, England is a well-battered "front," where the Matrons and nurses have proved their mettle of the finest quality. Why not a Raid Star?

### DR. ELIZABETH GARRETT ANDERSON HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.

H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, was present at a meeting held at the New Hospital for Women on March 14th, in support of the special appeal for £50,000 to endow fifty beds as a memorial to the late Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, founder of the hospital.

The Princess said that she was sure the appeal would meet with the success it deserved, even in these cruel times. "Though the undying memory of this wonderful woman is in itself a sufficient memorial yet we owe her homage, and what more fitting homage could we offer than to maintain this hospital as she would have wished."

The speakers included the Right Honble. H. A. L. Fisher, Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., C.B.E.; the Right Honble. F. D. Acland, Dr. Jane Walker, and Dr. Flora Murray, C.B.E. It was decided to rename the Hospital the Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital for Women. Lady Hall, as Treasurer of the Memorial Fund, reported encouraging progress, and read a list of beds already endowed.

### INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF TRAINED MASSEUSES.

The annual meeting of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses was held on Saturday last at the Armitage Hall, 228, Great Portland Street, W., by kind permission of the National Institute for the Blind. Sir Charles Nicholson, M.P., presided, and some 200 members were present, and important business was transacted to which we hope to refer in a future issue.

After the meeting the majority of those present reassembled in the cheerful rooms of the Society at 157 Great Portland Street for a "War Tea." The rooms, decorated with daffodils and other beautiful flowers, looked the incarnation of spring, and the guests were made very welcome by Miss Grafton, Chairman of Council, Miss Templeton, Secretary, and Miss Ackroyd, Editor of the Journal of the Society, and spent a most enjoyable half-hour with the members of this highly-skilled body of professional workers, whose services just now are in such request for the alleviation of the sufferings of the sick and wounded.

### THE REGISTRATION OF SPECIALISTS.

We are informed that the nominated Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., which has already, without consulting the nursing profession, defined conditions of Registration for Existing Nurses, and drafted a Nurses' Registration Bill, which does not secure one of the fundamental principles for which the nurses have been working for so long, has gone a step further and proposes to cut at the very root of efficient educational standards by recognising the principle of the registration of specialists. It is proposed to placate the managers of Children's Hospitals by setting up a Supplemental Register of Children's Nurses; and this principle of sectional nursing once accepted, the natural result will inevitably be confusion worse confounded.

Nursing, like medicine, must be based on a knowledge of the general principles of health and disease, and the application of such knowledge; and any proposal to specialise in practice before general principles are assimilated would be fatal in any scheme of nursing education.

For sixty years the professional education, and largely the economic control of nurses, has been in the hands of male governors of hospitals, composing the Boards of hospital management, who, with few exceptions, have no qualifications whatever for defining educational standards of nursing, and whose main responsibility is to carry on the management, as trustees of charitable institutions, in the most economical manner possible. Many are excellent men of business—a law unto themselves—and are responsible to no one excepting to those who provide them with funds. On the other hand, they employ thousands of women as nurses and domestics, and it is only the "wash lady" whose time limit of labour is protected by law!

Hospital governors, on dangerously sentimental grounds, have absolute power over the labour, teaching, remuneration, and profit of the nursing staff, and the eighty-four hours week of work, curricula of education, pay and profit on private practice, leave much to be desired.

As a result, trained nurses have been agitating for a quarter of a century for the organization of their profession by the State, and the Nursing Schools have opposed tooth and nail any such demand.

This is the crux of the clash between the organized Nurses' Organizations and the nominated Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., composed of lay employers, the matrons under their control, and certain members of their hon. medical staffs.

Both parties have now drafted Bills for the organization of the nursing profession, and in comparing these two documents, the demands of the nurses in their own Bill are ignored in that of their employers, with the result that the nurses grouped in various organizations, who are free from official pressure, deeply resent the autocratic attitude of the majority of Matrons of large

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