

of nursery schools be made obligatory on all Local Education Authorities and that the Nursery Schools be open to all children whose parents wish them to attend."

The Executive Committee also passed the following resolution on the matter:—

"This Committee considers in view of the very early age at which children will be admitted to the Nursery Schools provided for in the new Education Bill, it is desirable that the person in charge of them should be trained in the care of their health rather than in that of their mental development, and therefore calls upon the Government to take steps to insure that a FULLY TRAINED NURSE SHALL BE APPOINTED IN CHARGE OF EVERY NURSERY SCHOOL where children under three years are admitted."

Copies of both Amendments to the Bill were sent to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House of Commons, the President of the Board of Trade, and the Member for Westminster.

THE IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The following is the text of the Resolution recently adopted and sent by the I.N.A. to the Premier, Mr. Duke, Mr. John Dillon, and the Earl of Derby:—

"The Executive Committee of the Irish Nurses' Association protests strongly against the New Defence of the Realm Regulation published on March 27th, regarding venereal disease.

"The members feel that it is most unjust to women. Women should have exactly the same rights in law as men. If women suffering from venereal diseases are to be kept under control, men should be treated in the same way."

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Several Members of Parliament interrogated the Secretary of State for the Home Department on this question last week.

Mr. Lees Smith asked whether it is intended to follow up the New Regulation 40 D, under the Defence of the Realm Acts, with regard to women suffering from venereal disease by a similar regulation with regard to men. The Home Secretary (Sir George Cave) replied that Regulation 40 D, applies only when the health of sailors and soldiers is endangered, and was made at the instance of naval and military authorities with a view to checking the spread of venereal disease among the Forces, and questions relating to the Regulation should be addressed to these authorities. It would be impossible to make such a regulation apply to the population as a whole, but the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, which will shortly be reintroduced in another place, will contain a Clause similar to that which was accepted by a Committee of the House of Commons last

Session, and which applied equally to persons of both sexes.

Mr. Herbert Samuel asked why the Regulation made by the Executive should not apply to both sexes, so far as it applied to persons affected by the Regulation?

Sir George Cave replied that it is not in the power of the Privy Council, under the Defence of the Realm Act to make a Regulation applicable to both sexes. It is only for the protection of His Majesty's Forces.

Mr. King asked the Home Secretary to give an assurance, if the provision in the Criminal Law Amendment Act passes into law, that Regulation 40 D, will be immediately withdrawn.

Sir George Cave replied: "It is possible, but I cannot give an assurance."

Mr. Billing said: "Surely the right hon. gentleman will not draw a distinction between men and women."

Now women are enfranchised, they must make it impossible for Parliament to do so.

A little leaflet, "The American Army and Navy and Venereal Disease," published by the White Cross League, 7, Dean's Yard, Westminster, might well be given by every father and mother to their sons when they enlist. It is interesting to note the high moral standard advocated by the authorities of the great Republic.

A PIE-CRUST PLEDGE.

How much longer is the College Council going to circulate in print, and permit its salaried officials to circulate in ill-informed pamphlets, such astounding statements as that made by Miss Vera Matheson, the Secretary of its Irish Board? This official also carefully omits the word "Limited" from the letters of the Company she serves, in her so-called "A Nurse's Talk to Nurses."

Miss Matheson states under "What the College proposes to do for each Nurse":—

(i) In the first place, your name being on the College Register, when the Nurses' Registration Bill becomes law you will be recognised by the State without any further fee or formality, as a trained nurse, a fact which will mean the same to you as the possession of her C.M.B. does to a maternity nurse."

The allusion to the C.M.B. is rank rubbish, but we have no hesitation in informing all those unwary Irish nurses who have paid Miss Matheson a fee for registration by the College on *this pledge* that "when the Nurses' Registration Bill becomes law you will be recognized by the State without any further fee or formality, as a trained nurse," that if not returned on application, it would be recoverable in a court of law. Neither the lay promoters of the College Company, nor its nominated Council have the power to fulfil such a pledge made to nurses to induce them to join the College. Such a statement pre-judges the decisions

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)