

"two years for two years' service" in the future training of V.A.D.'s, is the last straw. If four years' arduous drudgery is of no professional value in competition with social swank, then our hospital managers will find after the war a determined demand upon the part of probationers for a shorter term of training, and who can blame them? After all, the fourth year is not necessary for training in general nursing, although the skill acquired is most valuable in handling the sick, and for that reason alone is permissible.

The *American Journal of Nursing* is, as ever, full of good things. Miss Edna L. Foley, in charge of the Department of Public Health Nursing, writes that a good many philanthropic agencies in the States anticipate difficulties in raising their budgets for the year 1918, and quotes a publicity poster headed:—

"Hold the Home Lines.

"Save the babies.

"Protect the boys and girls.

"Nurse the sick.

"Help the poor and aged.

"This is a time of sacrifice, but not the sacrifice of the helpless.

"Contribute to Chicago Welfare Agencies and help meet Wartime Needs."

REGISTRATIONISTS RECOGNISED.

General Page Croft has kindly forwarded tickets for a box containing five seats for the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, for the Mass Meeting organized by the National Party to be held at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, May 25th, at 2.40, when Ambassador Gerard's Great Film, "My Four Years in Germany," will be shown. The speakers include Lord Beresford, Brigadier-General H. Page Croft, M.P., Mr. Havelock Wilson, O.B.E., and the Hon. Lady Maxse. This is a courtesy which will be greatly appreciated.

THE DIRECTORY OF DISTRICT NURSING IN LONDON.

¶ We remind our readers that the Directory of District Nursing and Streets List for London, which has been prepared by the Central Committee for District Nursing, a notice of which appeared in our issue of March 16th, may be obtained through Messrs. King & Son, Orchard House, Westminster, S.W. 1. The Directory, the price of which is 2s. 6d., cannot fail to be of real service to social workers, medical practitioners, hospital authorities, and nursing associations, as well as those engaged in the various health services in London.

PRISON REFORM.

The Committee of the Penal Reform League has brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for the Home Department certain urgently required reforms in prison administration and court procedure which probably could be effected by administrative action without waiting for any alteration in the law, namely:—

1. *Prison Commission*.—Our Committee recommend that either (a) at least two women be added to the Prison Commission, or (b) the Prison Commissioners appoint a special Committee of Women to act as Directors of Women's Prisons and the Women's portions of H.M. Prisons.

2. *Women Governors*.—That the Governors of Women's Prisons should invariably be women.

3. *Medical Officers*.—That the Medical Officers in charge of women prisoners should invariably be women.

4. *Nurses in Prison*.—That specially selected Nursing Sisters be employed in all prisons.

5. *Court Procedure*.—That steps be taken to bring before Judges and Magistrates—(a) the advisability of allowing responsible persons, especially women, interested in child welfare to attend Juvenile Courts, even if not parties to the case being tried; (b) the undesirability of asking women to leave the Court when men unconnected with the Court or with the case under trial are allowed to remain; (c) the desirability in Juvenile and other Courts, where a woman or girl is a party to the case or called as witness, of securing the presence of a woman to stay by the side of such woman or girl.

We feel sure trained Nurses, especially those engaged in Social Welfare Nursing, will sympathise warmly with the above recommendations.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN WORKERS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

CONFERENCE ON NURSERY SCHOOLS.

The Executive Committee of the National Union of Women Workers, in considering Clause 19 of the Education Bill now before Parliament, decided to support the principle of Nursery Schools, and to call an informal Conference of representative women to consider further the details of this important proposal.

This Conference will be held at the Office of the Girls' Friendly Society, 39, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1, on Saturday, June 8th, at 11 a.m., when any members of committees, branches, or affiliated societies who are specially interested in the subject will be welcomed.

Notice of any special points which it is desired to bring forward in the discussion should be sent to the Secretary, N.U.W.W., Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

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