

MILLENNIUM IMMINENT.

The *Evening News* of January 18th publishes the following paragraph:—

WHAT V.A.D.'S WANT.

IMPROVED STATUS, BETTER TRAINING, AND A FUND FOR PENSIONS.

Miss Olive Dent, author of "A V.A.D. in France," has started a campaign for the British Women's Hospitals in support of the Nation's Thanksgiving Fund for Nurses. Miss Dent's experience as a V.A.D. has shown her how much the status of a nurse can be improved.

"V.A.D.'s are liked by the medical officers in hospital because they are fresh and bright," said Miss Dent to a representative of *The Evening News*. "You very seldom find a dull V.A.D. The proposed College of Nursing wants so to raise the conditions of an ordinary nurse's life that she shall not become embittered and soured.

"The work is its own reward, but it raises the standard of a profession when the workers understand their own value.

"If the training of a nurse is laid down by the College of Nursing, and conditions of service are fixed for her, more women would go into the profession for the love of it rather than to just earn a living.

"In Canada all the big hospitals are affiliated to the universities, while in this country you can come across a sister who tells you that she had only three lectures a week during her training.

"The fund will provide scholarships and post-graduate courses, besides establishing a benevolent fund."

We feel sure the "soured and embittered" dullards who compose Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and their Territorial Colleagues, to say nothing of such Red Cross Nurses as have qualified themselves as safe and skilled attendants on the sick, will realise now that the "fresh and bright" ones (who step in where angels fear to tread) have their professional affairs in hand, that the millennium is imminent.

We were under the impression as a tax-payer, that our Military Nurses are servants of the State, and have the right to honourable status as such—just conditions of service, pay and pensions. It is to be sincerely regretted that their Matrons-in-Chief are supporting this charity campaign in their name without their consent, and placing them and our self-supporting profession in the most invidious position.

Miss Olive Dent, V.A.D., has also a most offensive article on the nursing profession in the *Evening Standard*, of January 21st, but as she is teaching trained nurses how to manage their own affairs, by merely repeating claims made by the organized nurses for 25 years, her interference is quite superfluous so far as they are concerned. No doubt the College Council, whose advocate she is, will receive her instructions with becoming humility and gratitude.

NURSING ECHOES.

In the early hours of last Sunday morning, there was an outbreak of fire in a three-floored building at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, used by the nursing staff as dining-rooms and dormitories. The ground floor was involved, but the hospital staff, together with a large force of the Fire Brigade from several of the City stations, succeeded in restricting the damage to the one floor. There were no cases of personal injury, but the occupants of the upper floors had to move to another portion of the hospital precincts.

We spent many an uneasy hour at night thirty years ago—at St. Bartholomew's Hospital—anticipating the horrible results of fire, should one occur in the series of connected little houses used as the Nurses' Homes in Little Britain, and even so long ago plans of a new Nurses' Home were under consideration. Lack of space prevented the building of a safe and sanitary Home, but it was an unwritten promise that when the land on which the Blue Coat School stood was sold, a slice should be secured for the erection of a new Nurses' Home. That land was secured several years ago, but so far nothing has been done.

In the year 1909 the Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Lord Sandhurst, in making his report to the Governors, referred to the Nurses' Home in the following terms:—

"I am informed that the unsatisfactory and inadequate accommodation for the Nursing Staff has from time to time been brought to the knowledge of the Governors, and that the necessity of building a new Nurses' Home has long been recognised as one of the most urgent needs of the Hospital. From a personal inspection of the houses in which the Nurses are at present quartered, I most strongly endorse this view.

"I need not perhaps dwell upon the general unsuitability of the existing accommodation and the inefficient provision of lavatories and bathrooms, and I must express the extreme anxiety with which I regard the possibility of a fire occurring in certain parts of the Home, the structural arrangements being such that, in the event of an emergency, the consequences could not fail to be very serious.

"In order to lessen as far as possible any risk of the kind, certain improvements in the exits from the upper floors are, upon expert advice, now being carried out; additional

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