

POSSIBLE CONCESSIONS TO V.A.D.'S.

As the press was excluded from the "Secret Session" of general hospital Matrons, which met on December 17th last, at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, by permission of the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, the Hon. Secretary of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, was directed to send the following letter to Miss Annie McIntosh, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, who issued the invitations to the meeting:—

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION
OF TRAINED NURSES.

431, Oxford Street,
London, W. 1.

December 28th, 1917.

DEAR MADAM,—On December 17th, upon your invitation, a meeting of general hospital Matrons was held at the Royal Automobile Club, to consider the question of the future training of V.A.D. Nurses, from which it is to be regretted the nursing press was excluded.

I am directed to write and ask you for an official report of the proceedings, as any preferential treatment in the training of V.A.D. Nurses is a matter of vital importance, not only to probationers who have signed contracts for three or four years' training, but also to those who will enter our training schools in the near future.

I am, dear madam,

Yours faithfully,

MARGARET BREAY.

Hon. Secretary,

Society for the State Registration
of Trained Nurses.

Miss A. McIntosh, R.R.C.

The following reply has been received from Miss McIntosh:—

St. Bartholomew's Hospital,
London, E.C.

December 31st, 1917.

MADAM,—In reply to your letter of the 28th inst., I am sorry I am unable to comply with your request to give you an account of the proceedings of the meeting held on the 17th inst.

It was convened for the purpose of an informal discussion respecting full professional training for V.A.D. members, and the possible concessions which might be allowed them.

As it was purely a private meeting no account is being furnished to the Press or nursing papers.

Yours faithfully,

A. MCINTOSH.

To Miss Margaret Breay.

About forty Matrons responded to Miss McIntosh's invitation, amongst those seen attending were Miss Lückes, London Hospital; Miss Gill, R.I., Edinburgh; and Miss Hill, Adelaide Hospital, Dublin. In the name of the profession generally we strongly deprecate the Matrons of our training schools meeting in private to discuss

"possible concessions" to any class of women workers. The Nurse Training Schools now exact a four years' term of apprenticeship from probationers, calculating their arduous service as part payment for their training; and in the case of the London Hospital, a huge tax on their earnings for two years after certification. Neither hospital committees nor their Matrons have any right to "concede" privileges to V.A.D.'s which they are not prepared to grant to every probationer admitted under a definite economic contract—as such "concessions" mean acute and unjust competition in the professional nursing world in the future.

We gather that the Matrons were not inclined at the meeting to support the War Office and London Hospital feelers for preferential treatment of V.A.D.'s, but probationers in training must be alert and insist on knowing if their contract is being trifled with. "Secret Sessions" on their affairs are extremely undesirable.

LEAGUE NOTES.

The Kensington Infirmary Nurses' League holds its annual re-union on January 8th. Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice, who is President of the League, will present the badges. There will be a reception and concert at 8 p.m.

The League Journal, edited by the Rev. A. Lombardini, the chaplain, keeps up its high standard, and is no doubt, greatly appreciated by the League members. Some day, no doubt, a Committee of the League will be formed for this professional purpose.

COVERED WITH GLORY.

Addressing the nurses at the annual Christmas meeting of the Glasgow Western Infirmary, held on the 27th ult., under the chairmanship of Sir Matthew Arthur, Lord Provost J. W. Stewart said the nursing profession had covered itself with glory in this war, and the status of the profession had been so raised as to attract the very best types of women, possessing the highest qualities, morally and intellectually, in addition to many other graces and excellences, which had the best opportunity for their fullest development, in ministering to the sick and wounded. In a special reference to the Western Infirmary staff, the Lord Provost said that one had sacrificed her life, two had received the Military Medal, five the Royal Red Cross, first class, fifteen the Royal Red Cross of the second class, and ten had been mentioned in despatches.

THE PAUPER CASTE.

The British Women's Hospital Committee are still continuing their costly advertisements clamouring for funds for the "pauper caste," the Nation's Nurses, and thereby deluding the public.

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