

the Nation. Of the fifteen women who went to the poll, few made any impression on the electorate. Miss Christabel Pankhurst might have won had she had time to organise, and will write M.P. after her name in the near future we have no doubt. But it is a fact that women did not, in any number, vote for women, and indeed, few of the candidates inspired much confidence. It is the irony of fate that the only woman elected, the Countess Markievicz (*née* Gore-Booth), the Sinn Fein candidate for St. Patrick's, Dublin, is pledged not to take her seat in the English House of Commons! Moreover, as an alien by marriage, she is ineligible to sit there.

Over the rout of the "old Gang," headed by the late Premier, Mr. Asquith, trained nurses will shed no tears. Ever since the House of Lords passed a generous Registration Bill in 1908, the Liberal Party had it in their power to grant overdue legislation for the protection of trained nurses—instead of which they prevented the House of Commons considering the measure, and left the nurses and the public to suffer from dangerously disorganised conditions, in spite of the urgent demands constitutionally conducted, of the intelligent and disinterested sections of the nursing and medical professions. Overwork, underpay and suppression for the nurses, and unblushing exploitation by ignorant and oftentimes disreputable persons calling themselves nurses, for the public. A sorry tale! A big nail in the coffin of callous politicians was hammered in when the nurses cast their votes!

WOMEN AND HEALTH.

A meeting of the Ministry of Health Watching Council, presided over by Lady Rhondda, was held at 8, Portman Square, W., recently. There was a large attendance of representatives of Women's Societies, including organised societies of nurses. The scope of the Council and its constitution were discussed, the objects adopted being:—

- (1) To watch the progress of the Ministry of Health Bill through all its stages.
- (2) To take any action during the progress of the Bill considered necessary by women for the Health of the Nation, and to secure the adequate representation of women in the Ministry.
- (3) To take any action considered necessary by women for the health of the Nation upon which the Council may decide after the passage of the Bill.

Lady Rhondda explained that under the Ministry of Health Bill power was asked for the establishment of Advisory Councils with power to initiate advice, and upon which the Minister could call for advice. The idea if carried into effect was of value from two points. Groups of experts would be constituted who would have power to advise the Ministry, and in addition the Ministry would be kept in touch with outside opinion.

She proposed that there should be a Women's Council as all women were interested in health

questions and had special views to put before the Government. It was not enough for women to see the Ministry formed as they wanted it, they also desired to see it go on as they wanted it. They should have a body of women whose Chairman had access to the Minister.

Lady Rhondda considered it important that such a body should be chosen on democratic lines, not nominated by the Minister from people who were known to him.

This was seconded by Mrs. H. B. Irving, who said she saw no other way of bringing women into touch with the Minister.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick supported the principle. It was resolved:—

That the Watching Council adopt as part of its policy to press for an Advisory Council of Women on the Ministry of Health elected on democratic lines, and in an analogous position to and with the same rights, privileges, and powers as any other Advisory Councils.

A TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

Mary has been shut in mother's wardrobe for a punishment.

"Are you a good little girl now?"

"No, I'm not a good ickle girl. I'm not going to be a good ickle girl."

"What are you doing in my wardrobe?"

"I've spit on your new skirt, and I've spit on your best b'ouse, and now I'm waiting for some more spit."

"A NEW FACE AT THE DOOR."

NEW YEAR'S EVE, 1918, 11.59 P.M.!

The door stands wide, and we who watch you go,
Have no tears left to shed for you, Old Year!
You claimed them all throughout your length of woe,
Whose hours told little else but loss and fear.

Haply the child who follows in your wake
And holds the threads of destinies unknown,
May weave a fairer pattern that shall make
Some kindly reparation for your own!

C. B. M.

COMING EVENTS.

January 4th.—Irish Nurses' Association. Meeting Executive Committee, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. 8 p.m. To discuss the position of Nurses in Public Institutions.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

January 4th.—"Charter Tea," 10, Orchard Street, W. 3.30 to 6 p.m.

January 11th.—Conference. "To consider the urgent need for properly-qualified women in all Branches of Public Health Work." Papers by Miss Wise and Miss Alderman. 10, Orchard Street, W. 3 p.m.

January 16th.—Lecture. "Lands and Peoples of the Lower Danube." By James Berry, Esq., F.R.C.S., Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, London, W.

January 24th.—Matrons' Council. Annual Meeting Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, W. 3 p.m.

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