

certain pledges made by the College and for which it would have become responsible on amalgamating the College with itself.

Sir Cooper Perry concludes with a veiled threat that the Children's Hospitals may find their "loophole" withdrawn from the Bill, adding that its omission will be welcomed by the majority of nurses. Of course it will, but the nurses are not prepared to put much trust in the conscience of a body which, with the one-portal system writ large on one page, proceeds in another to provide for any number of side portals, and which represents to the authorities of the Special Hospitals that such side portals can be opened at any time, and to the nurses that there is little danger, but that they can keep them carefully "banned and barred."

I am, Sir,  
Yours truly,  
ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary Royal British Nurses' Association.

#### THE WAR SEAL FOUNDATION.

With reference to a letter from a correspondent published in our last Supplement, in connection with the above Foundation, we are requested to make certain corrections. The War Seal Mansions, Fulham, contain 70, not 60, unfurnished flats, which are available for the men of the Army, Navy and the Air Services who are incapacitated for work. As it has been intimated that the Ministry of Pensions is willing to supply chairs it is preferable that gifts should take some other form, and these should be sent to the Secretary, at 10, Charing Cross Road, W.C.

(Signed) ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.  
10, Orchard Street, London, W. 1.

#### A TRADE UNION FOR NURSES.

We are informed that a trade union for nurses is now being created as a branch of the Irish Women Workers' Union. In connection with this project, a public meeting will be held in Dublin within the next fortnight.

#### THE PROFESSIONAL DANGER.

Overheard at the College of Nursing meeting.  
Nurse in full canonicals (effusively) looking towards the platform: "Oh! isn't he a dear?"  
Nurse near by (grimly): "Have you read the Bill?"

Gusher (indignantly): "Certainly not; I shouldn't presume."

Nurse near by (sotto voce): "And this is the type of futile idiot who counts!"

#### WINDFALLS.

The late Mr. William E. Green, a benefactor of the Kingston Victoria Hospital, in his will has left a legacy of £10,000 to the Institution, free of duty.

#### THE SICK POOR MUST BE PROTECTED.

We referred briefly last week to the inquest held at the Cottage Hospital, Oswestry, on February 3rd, on a schoolboy who died in the hospital. The following is the account of the inquest published in the *Borders Counties Advertiser*:—

##### SCHOOLBOY'S SAD DEATH.

Mr. Coroner Lewis held an inquiry at the Cottage Hospital on Monday (February 3rd) into the death of Burton Ronald Pritchard, aged seven, who died in the Hospital on Friday as a result of shock following scalds.—The mother stated that on January 28th the boy had wet his stocking, and she took it off to dry, placing the boy on a chair by the fireside. There was a saucepan of stew at the boil on the fire, and when she had turned her back she heard her son shout, "Oh, mammy, I am dying." She saw the saucepan had been upset, but there was still sufficient stew left in it for dinner. She undressed the boy, and found he was scalded on both arms and the right side. The nurses were sent for, and they attended up to January 30th. She later sent for Dr. Crofton, on the advice of the nurse. There was no fireguard; she had sold it only a month ago. Deceased was her youngest child.—Nurse Margaret Edwards, nurse in charge of the Cottage Hospital in the absence of the matron, and Nurse Winnie Gears, district nurse at the Cottage Hospital, gave evidence of attending the child for scalds. The former admitted that she was neither qualified nor certificated, and that her experience consisted of three years' training at the Cottage Hospital. The latter also was not qualified nor certificated, and had received only 12 months' training at the Cottage Hospital.—The Coroner said the nurses assumed a very grave responsibility in this case. It was their duty to have got the assistance of some medical man to have given his care to the child. He did not think they had either the experience or knowledge to assume such responsibility, and he would suggest that in future they should see a medical man in such cases.—A verdict of "Death accidentally caused by scalds" was returned.

In view of the fact that suggestions are being put forward that small hospitals should be established in country districts and run much on the same lines as many V.A.D. hospitals have been run (*i.e.*, with V.A.D.s and a minimum of one trained nurse), this case is of special interest. We hope that Labour Women will carefully watch any such schemes, for it is not the rich but the poor who suffer when inefficient nursing is provided in such institutions.

In the present case it transpired through the publicity given at the inquest (1) that the nurse in charge of the hospital in the absence of the

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