

or community brings security and well-being to its members. Labour has realised this, and organised. The medical profession did so long ago, and we would have the nurses grasp the present position of affairs, take time by the forelock, and themselves prepare their profession for their demobilisation, paving the way to secure greater security for their professional qualifications and for their economic position. Demobilisation bureaux, useful up to a certain extent, will not meet the case; organisation on the part of nurses will. The former are apt to become in some degree, soporifics, all too readily swallowed by women who adopt the attitude that "something will turn up; it will surely all come right some day." The latter claims for individuals a mental awakening to enquire into facts, a mental activity in regard to the management of their own profession and their own economic affairs.

Demobilisation bureaux are no antidote to certain conditions which have arisen in the course of the last few years. Increased numbers of nurses have been turned out, and rightly so, by the hospital schools. By the absence of an adequate supply of fully qualified nurses to meet civilian needs, numbers of very inadequately qualified people have got themselves seated firmly in the saddle, and the latest development is the proposal of the British Red Cross Society to provide specialists, if one may so describe them, to take over a great part of the grand field of preventive work which we had looked forward to as the heritage of those who have qualified themselves by years of arduous training to undertake such work. Never was there clearer proof, if it were wanted, that one chairman, however well intentioned he may be, cannot serve bodies which have rival interests. Time and again we have advised our trained nurses to take one or other of the various examinations in Public Health work, as it seemed likely to prove, in the near future, the most valuable of any branch of special training to the nurses; and now the Chairman of the College of Nursing is one of the chief promoters of a scheme to secure for his V.A.D.s this magnificent field of work, for which a knowledge of nursing, as acquired in a military hospital, provides no experience whatever. We note that the suggestion has been made that in every village throughout the land the "village nurse," herself with but a few months' hospital experience, shall work in co-operation with a V.A.D., and that poor mothers and babies in rural districts shall depend upon these insufficiently trained women for guidance and care!

It is only by active co-operation as individuals that the nurses can save the situation, and one has but to look down the list of advertisements for nurses to see how serious their economic position is. If the nurses would but develop the creative power that is in them, although in all too many cases it has been stunted somewhat by lack of freedom and free will, by the fostering of the group soul instead of a spirit of self-determination in hospital life, they would soon have the helm of the future of their profession in their own control.

APPOINTMENT.

Miss Mabel Carter, who is at present working at Crag Head Military Hospital, Bournemouth, has been appointed Matron at St. Edith's School, Brackley. More such posts as this might, with great advantage to the schools, be filled by trained nurses. Many women, now acting as school Matrons, have excellent organising abilities, but only a smattering knowledge of the conditions affecting the health of child-life and of the variations from the normal, which often commence so insidiously. Not long ago we heard of a case where a mother lost her only child from consumption, and afterwards it was ascertained that at school he had been much in contact with, and had even slept with, another boy, who, it was discovered later, suffered from consumption. Had there been a trained nurse in the school, the symptoms of the first child attacked might have been brought to the notice of a medical man at a much earlier date than was the case, and so one life, at least, might have been spared. At this time, in all branches of work connected with the care of child-life, "nothing but the best is good enough," as regards the care of those to whom such responsibility is entrusted.

DONATIONS.

The Hon. Treasurer acknowledges with thanks donations from the following:—

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(Signed) ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

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