

increase the accommodation for patients, so greatly needed, from 160 to 177 beds.

The trained Superintendents of all well-managed Nursing Homes would welcome registration, and, if need be, professional inspection, and the verdict in what is known as the Witting Court scandal will, we should hope, make some form of protection for the public compulsory. That a poor paralysed old woman should be permitted to run a home without nursing help—a home in which there have been nine deaths since 1913—and that sick people can be admitted into a home described as absolutely filthy, to die of neglect and starvation, as agreed by the coroner's jury, shows a deplorable negligence upon the part of those responsible for the safety of sick people. Registration of Trained Nurses and registration of Nursing Homes would soon put an end to such barbarities.

The *Medical Press* has always had very sound views on nursing economics, and has not hesitated to point the moral. Referring last week to Nursing in Ireland, it states:—“Neither the hospitals nor the general public are entirely free of the charge of sweating their nurses, and one cannot doubt that if the nurses did not show some signs of discontent the present condition would persist without improvement.

The promoters of the Nation's Tribute to Nurses in Ireland had no hesitation in telling the public that nurses could not expect to earn enough to make provision for their old age, and that the charity of the public should keep 'worn-out' nurses out of the workhouse. That it should be regarded as proper for nurses to be dependent on charity to keep them from starvation is an intolerable state of affairs. The public and the hospitals must recognise that nursing is to be a livelihood for those who engage in it, and that the economic position of nurses must be made secure. It is hardly necessary to say that a more efficient service can be thus obtained.”

Trained Nurses had better suffer a bit longer from bad economic conditions than agree to the “charity” remedy proposed by the College of Nursing, Ltd. It is as financially unsound as it is humiliating. Combine for a good living wage and owe no man anything. Thus, and thus only, can the worker maintain her self-respect and the respect of her fellows.

The *Daily Sketch*, having provided itself with a huge advertisement through Victory

Ball patronage of the “poor nurses,” in connection with the “Nation's Fund for Nurses” (most unnational of schemes) is now going one better with its “Baby Show Prize Scheme,” which it is running in connection with the National Baby Week Council, which ought to know better than enter into such a partnership.

We are entirely in sympathy with the views of Miss Ada Wallas, so admirably set forth in the *Morning Post*, who deplores this blatant advertising in connection with Infant Welfare. As she states, practical workers have endeavoured to do their work without charity, without patronage, and with only such investigation as is medically necessary. This letter ends:—“We consider that, now that a Ministry of Health is being created, and the responsibility of the whole community for the health of our population is recognised, methods of propaganda which involve public shows of the mothers and infants of a great democracy are neither necessary nor desirable.”

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

An Army Order issued recently states that wound stripes may be worn by officers, soldiers, and members of the military nursing Services in respect of wounds sustained in any campaign prior to August 4th, 1914. Retired officers, ex-officers, discharged soldiers, and retired nurses who were in direct military employment may, if duly qualified, wear these distinctions on plain clothes. Official casualty lists of records constitute the authority for wearing wound stripes.

A British Relief Unit has this week been sent to Syria. The party numbered about 50, and included doctors, nurses, and others qualified to organise industries for boys and girls. They were accompanied on a short visit to Syria and Palestine by Mr. T. H. Baxter, organising secretary of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, which, in conjunction with the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, has organised the Relief Unit. It is expected that the work of the Unit, which will be stationed at Damascus, will continue until nearly the close of the year.

The joint committee of the Girton and Newnham Colleges War Hospital report that their hospital is at present established on the outskirts of Salonika, but that the orthopaedic department will probably be moved before long to Belgrade. In view of the terrible conditions of the country it will long be of value to the Serbs; and it is proposed that it should eventually form part of a memorial to the devoted work and self-sacrifice of Dr. Elsie Inglis.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)