

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.**LIVERPOOL BRANCH.**

The annual meeting was held in the upstairs room at the "Coffee Pot," Renshaw Street, on February 27th, at 7 p.m. The gathering was a success in every way, except numbers; the attendances being disappointingly small. Several letters of apology for absence were received. Miss Jeffries (Hon. Treasurer) acted as Chairman, and Miss Tipper gave a short talk on "The Present Outlook for Nurses," in which she pointed out the activities of the Union for the past year and the opportunities there would be in the future for Nurses' societies which were on a democratic basis and run on democratic lines. She urged all nurses to support the Bill for state registration of the Central Committee. She said if nurses were alive to their own interests and those of the community they would take a much more active part in the management of their own affairs, and also in matters relating to the health of the nation. They would see to it that the nursing of the poor and helpless in their own homes was of the best, and not left to untrained and half-trained people who did not possess the knowledge and observation so necessary for this branch of nursing, and which only adequate and thorough training could give. She urged nurses to qualify themselves for the new posts which are being created in the Public Health services and to see to it that only fully-trained people were appointed. Nurses as a whole needed to cultivate a broader spirit and take a greater interest in social questions outside their own particular branch, otherwise they would fall short in sympathy and understanding which were such important assets in a nurse's career. Liverpool nurses had not shown their appreciation of the work of the Union, or there would have been a much larger number present. What was needed was one or two public-spirited nurses to take up the work and make the Union a living force in the nursing world of Liverpool.

A good discussion followed, in the course of which Miss Macalister, a member of the branch, spoke very strongly of the way in which funds were being raised for the Nation's Fund for Nurses, and stated that she had already written a personal protest, which she had sent to Lady Cowdray. Others present supported Miss Macalister.

Through the kindness of Mrs. Temple, a member of the Liverpool Committee, light refreshments were provided, and much enjoyed.

THE BRISTOL BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Bristol Branch of the N.U.T.N. was held on February 21st. Tea was kindly provided by Mrs. W. C. H. Cross. After the business meeting a paper was read by Miss Gunter on "The Future of V.A.D.s," and a discussion followed of much interest.

The Bristol Branch hope to inaugurate a Paper Club as part of their scheme of work for the coming year.

IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The annual business meeting of the Association was held on March 1st, at 34, St. Stephen's Green. The President (Miss Carson Rae) was in the Chair, and there was a good attendance.

The annual report was read; the adoption of it was moved by Miss Thornton, seconded by Miss Reeves, and passed unanimously. When printed it will be circulated amongst the members.

On the conclusion of business there was an open discussion on the present unrest in the Irish nursing world. It was decided to hold a public meeting in the near future in order to consider further the best way of uniting to remedy existing grievances. In view of the action of a certain number of nurses, in starting a trade union of nurses, it is felt that they ought clearly to understand what they commit themselves to, in joining a trades union. In spite of all the arguments in its favour, it is felt that however beneficial it may be for the other bodies of Women Workers, a trades union is not the best, or only way, for nurses to remedy their grievances.

M. L. O'KEEFE, Secretary.

THE PASSING BELL

We regret to report that Sister Isabelle Katherine Mina MacDonald succumbed to an attack of pneumonia, contracted while nursing a patient with that disease at the Hopital Militaire, No. 1, Palavas, on February 21st.

Sister MacDonald was trained at the Natal Government Hospital, Durban, South Africa, and was subsequently Ward Sister at the Mayo College, Lahore, India. She joined the Joint War Committee Nursing Staff in 1915, and went first to the Belgian Field Hospital, Hoogstadt, afterwards serving on Home Service. Only last December she was sent by the British Committee of the French Red Cross to the Military Hospital, Palavas, but during that short time she had much endeared herself to both patients and colleagues, who sincerely mourn her loss.

APPOINTMENTS.**QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE.****MATRON-IN-CHIEF.**

Miss A. Beadsmore Smith, R.R.C., has been (as we reported) appointed Matron-in-Chief of Q.A.I.M.N.S., She was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and has been connected with the Army Nursing Service for many years, having served in the South African War. Miss Beadsmore Smith is a lady of exceedingly courteous demeanour, and will we have no doubt, inculcate a polite and tactful tone throughout her Department in its relations with the public—a change urgently needed, and which will be greatly appreciated by all concerned. Many women placed in public positions of authority have got to learn that the public, and their subordinates, have a right to courtesy, and that good manners are an invaluable asset in the maintenance of discipline. "Ask pretty" is seldom refused.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)