

nurses should be given a three years' training was not enforced. It was considered too costly, and a system was then substituted of continuing to certificate probationers at the end of two years' training, but compelling them to sign for a term of four years' labour—the third and fourth years to be utilised by the Matron, if she thought fit, in profit-making for the hospital as private nurses on very unholy terms.

This indefensible contract is signed by those women trained at the London unto this day—and thousands and thousands of pounds have yearly been contributed by these exploited workers in the upkeep of the London Hospital.

It is a cruel exaction, and if the Receipts and Disbursements of the Private Nursing Department of the London Hospital for the past thirty-five years were published, it would make the Labour Party's hair stand on end!

We have been surprised at the number of letters received during the past week from nurses at the London Hospital, some signed and some unsigned, but not, of course, for publication. We have tabulated expressions of opinion contained in the majority of these communications, of the reforms the writers desire to see instituted, and print them, as we believe in publicity if reform is to be effected:—

WHAT LONDON HOSPITAL NURSES WANT, AND OBJECT TO.

1. We wish for a complete three years' consecutive training in the wards.
2. We do not object to signing for four years' service, to give back a year's skilled work for our training.
3. We want a more modern curriculum of training, and the Practical Nursing Lectures brought up to date.
4. We want during the three years' course to be passed through special departments, especially gynæcological and theatre work.
5. We object to probationers being made Sisters before they have completed their three years' course.
6. We consider it would be advantageous if the Matron visited the wards daily and saw the nurses at work, instead of judging on hearsay.
7. We consider there should be a preliminary examination after 12 months' training, and inefficient workers weeded out, and a final examination at the end of three years' training, and only those who pass be awarded a certificate.
8. We object to the Matron having power to qualify our certificates, writing in what she chooses. Great injustice has often been done in this particular. The Committee should approve a certificate, and it should be awarded

or withheld according to merit, and not for personal reasons.

9. The hospital has been overrun by short-term paying probationers during the war. This should now be stopped.

10. We consider the Private Nursing Institution should be on the Co-operative System.

11. We are mostly in favour of State Registration. We dare not join a Society in support of it, as we have our livings to earn, and we object to be made to sign papers against it in Matron's office in front of an office Sister.

12. We think we ought to be permitted to hear speakers on State Registration, and support it without being penalised. Also THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING should be provided for us to read, as the "anti" papers are.

There is little doubt that many members of the London Hospital Nursing Staff are hoping for a new régime. It is very sorely needed. That is why we consider Miss Beatrice Monk a very fortunate woman. She has a Great Opportunity. Let us hope she will rise to the occasion and avail herself of it.

E. G. F.

A WORD FOR THE MODEST.

For unblushing snobbery commend us to an article headed "The Unpaid: A Word for the Modest," which recently appeared in the *Times*, in which it is proposed that all and sundry who are supposed to have worked without pay during the war, are to be decorated! The truth about this "pay" question is that people with means have thrust themselves into positions requiring training and skill, and lapped the *hudos* for work they were entirely unfitted to perform. This has been a most glaring evil in the nursing world.

Then, again, many decadent and incapable hangers-on with social influence have been given positions often carrying board, lodging, transport, &c., provided often by charitable funds, which emoluments their services never equalled, nor will they find a market in times of peace, unless hoarded public funds continue the subsidy.

Now these "invertebrates" are to monopolise the "honours," and the services of the trained and skilled, of real national value in times both of peace and war are to be labelled "hireling" and receive no recognition. Let us hope all this charity demoralization may now cease; but we greatly fear Society, once having placed its hoof on "merit," intends to keep it there!

A strike has taken place among the staff of the Clare Asylum, following the refusal of the committee of management to make the war bonus of a pound a week permanent. Some of the patients escaped.

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