

a half years to run a "Co." with half the members on active duty, and with increased expenses at every turn.

Many excellent Sisters now demobilising are joining the Registered Nurses Society, so that by next winter it is hoped to return to pre-war strength. The minimum qualification is a certificate of three years' general training, and in addition practical experience in as many specialities as possible.

We hope, by-and-bye, when the General Nursing Council gets to work to organise nursing standards, that we shall have a safe minimum of training and efficiency defined for the Central Examination, and an Honours' Course, through which those who desire to add specialities to their general training may have their qualifications recognised. Now in a three or four years' course the majority of nurses are not trained in maternity, gynaecological, infectious fevers, or neurological nursing. Nurses on private nursing duty are very ill-equipped without one or more of these specialities, as the majority of our general hospitals now exclude many cases to be found in the wards in pre-historic days. To think of the fine sphere of work before the General Nursing Council, and the good time coming, makes one long to be twenty once again, just to avail oneself of the systematised scientific teaching which the probationer of the future will enjoy, and to kiss one's finger tips to the good old days of rule of thumb and *sauve qui peut!*

The Minister of Labour has appointed a sub-committee for Scotland of the Nurses Resettlement and Demobilisation Committee (London). This sub-committee will deal with the resettlement of Scottish nurses in civil life, with special reference to those who desire to find post-war employment or to undertake some form of training. It will also control the register of Scottish nurses who desire work in Scotland. The register will be kept at the office of the Employment Department, Ministry of Labour, 112, George Street, Edinburgh, to which all inquiries should be addressed.

Several matrons are on the sub-committee, together with a representative of the National Health Insurance Commission, Edinburgh, and Miss Younger, O.B.E., representing the Ministry of Labour.

Nursing V.A.D. members and special military probationers who desire to train for the nursing profession are reminded that: (1)

Applications should be made on Form Z 27a (Nurses), obtainable from their senior officers, the forms to be returned to the Nurses' Demobilisation and Resettlement Committee, 16, Curzon Street, Mayfair, London, W.1.

Sister E. M. Scammell has returned to Vranjr, Serbia, after a short holiday. She has been with the Serbians since the early part of 1915, and worked with Lady Paget's Unit at Skoplji through the great typhus epidemic. Sister Scammell is now attached to the Scottish Women's Hospital at Vranjr, and is looking forward to taking part in helping in the health campaign which is to be promoted in Serbia when peace is signed. Many of our nurses intend to take part in health missions abroad when demobilised.

We this week received "greetings to you and your associates from beautiful Greece," from Miss Helen S. Hay, a great pioneer American nurse who adds: "the work goes slowly but I am at last getting on the right road." Miss Hay, since sent on military duty to Europe by the American Red Cross early in the war, has had most varied experience—in Russia, Bulgaria, other Balkan countries, and now in Greece. She is a born explorer in the nursing field.

A united Conference on "Nurses' Interests" is to be held in Dublin at an early date. The Irish Nurses' Association meet on May 5th at 34, St. Stephen's Green, to elect delegates. The word "united" in connection with Nursing has a pleasant sound.

### WHY NOT A LETHAL CHAMBER?

We strongly sympathise with correspondents who write protesting against a "Nurses' Flag Day," promoted by the committee of actresses and Society women who run the Nation's Fund for Nurses, which is to depreciate our professional status on May 1st in the streets of London. We have no doubt these philanthropists will hear a few more truths from the "paupers" they are out to patronise. Devonshire House is to be given over for three days to a Bazaar "combined with a jumble sale," and Jazz dancing for the same purpose. Lady Cowdray and Miss May Beeman are, of course, backing the show. Would not a lethal chamber be less trouble and more efficacious?

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