

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,641.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1919.

Vol. LXII

EDITORIAL.

FROM SICK-HOUSE TO SCIENCE-HOUSE.

There have been some very pessimistic articles in the Press during the past week on the financial condition of the voluntary hospitals; and, indeed, with the enormous cost of upkeep and labour, very serious consideration of the whole question is imperative. We have no fear that these valuable national institutions will suffer in the long run. The sick must be cared for, and the medical and nursing schools kept up-to-date; but evolution from the sick-house to the science-house is taking place, and must be recognised and organised. In the process, no doubt, co-ordination must be effected, and the care of sick people entrusted only to recognised authority. The present system, by which anyone, no matter how ignorant, may inaugurate and govern hospitals, is wasteful, and must be discontinued. Let the Ministry of Health consider the matter, call to its aid the best social, medical, and nursing expert opinion possible, and then deal firmly with the situation. The matter is too serious for further drifting and delay.

THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN ON THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The blessed month of August with no meetings has passed; in September we begin to talk again and at the Conference of women's organisations to consider the representation of Women in the League of Nations, held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Thursday, September 4th, the talk was very good.

It is provided in the Covenant of the League that all positions connected with the League, including the Secretariat, shall be open equally to men and women, and the women's organizations propose to submit to the Government a list of suitable candidates for appointment upon the various bodies.

Mrs. Rackham presided. She said that their object was to put into effective action the words contained in the League of Nations Covenant. As

the vagueness of the League of Nations proposals was a challenge to the democracy of the world, so were those words in Article 7 of the Covenant a challenge to women. They desired to make these words effective by selecting women who were most capable of service.

Resolutions urging upon the Government the just demand for representation of women in the Assembly of Delegates, in the International Court of Justice, and in all commissions and other bodies set up in connection with the League, were submitted and passed.

Various schemes for the nomination and recommendation of women representatives were discussed, and a resolution, proposed by Miss M. Macarthur, was ultimately carried to the effect that measures be taken, by a provisional committee, to receive from the organisations forming the Conference, and consider, and, if necessary, to recommend from, nominations of women to be submitted to the British Government and the League Secretariat as suitable for appointment on the various bodies or in the capacities for which the Government or the Secretariat are responsible. The recommendations will be submitted to a further meeting of the Conference.

The proposal to set up, in connection with the League of Nations, machinery for a permanent International Women's Office, with status similar to the International Labour Office, was left undecided. The previous question was moved and agreed, and it was decided, upon the suggestion of Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, that should the Secretariat of the League propose to establish a Women's Bureau, the draft scheme should be submitted to National Committees of Women, and that the views and recommendations of these bodies should be considered before any such bureau be constituted and given authority.

There should be no difficulty in suggesting names of women well fitted to take part in the International Work of the League of Nations when it is formed.

In the meanwhile, President Wilson is touring the United States in a special train in support of the Covenant of the League, and his opponents in the Senate are "camping on his trail."

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