

which professes to protect the interests of trained nurses, busy themselves in advancing competition by V.A.D.'s? The people largely suffer from tuberculosis, measles, and other preventable diseases, because, so far, those in authority have been too ignorant or ungenerous to provide a sufficiency of well-trained nurses to teach them how to prevent risks.

By all means, now the war is over, let all students of nursing take time to learn the theory of nursing, beginning with the study of bacteriology, and do not let us, now that we have a Ministry of Health, encourage women who desire to improve standards of national health, to imagine they can do so on the superficial methods of teaching considered adequate for the average V.A.D.

It is time that we heard no more of V.A.D. competition in nursing, which must soon, under a Registration Act, after serious study, become a clearly defined profession for women. It is wonderful how generous some medical men can be in bestowing trained nurses' rights and privileges on the amateur, a species of piracy they would be the first to resent in their own craft.

The following letter appeared in the *Glasgow Herald* of September 19th:—

MEN NURSES IN HOSPITAL WARDS.

SIR,—May I ask, through the medium of your valuable paper, when the cry of the demobilised and unemployed men is in our ears, and when women are still being employed in what formerly were men's occupations, if the tables could not be turned in one more profession?

During the war, nursing sisters were replaced by nursing orderlies in certain wards of the military hospitals. Is there any reason why men should not be employed now as nurses in men's wards in town or county hospitals? Nursing orderlies have proved themselves quite capable of doing all that is required in taking charge in certain wards under the direction of the medical officer; and the valuable experience gained by these orderlies of the R.A.M.C. should prove an asset to them in civilian life.

The employment of men nurses, I think, raises the standard of the whole profession. Trained native dressers are employed in the East. Why not use men in the same capacity at home?

I am, &c.,

MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

Male Nurses have their uses in the care of certain cases, but for a "Member of the College of Nursing" to advance that their employment "raises the standard of the whole profession" is an absurd statement. We wonder why this Collegite wishes to deprive her own sex of the work for which they are so specially suited—especially at the moment of

demobilisation, when hundreds of nurses are finding great difficulty in earning their living.

But why give over "town and county" hospital wards to male nurses? Of course the most suitable environments for them are the military wards. Why not a man Matron-in-Chief and Brothers instead of Sisters when innovations are on the tapis?

A conference to consider the co-operation and co-ordination of nursing organisations in Wales and Monmouthshire was recently held at Shrewsbury, the Right Hon. Thomas Richards, P.C., M.P., presiding. Representatives of Nursing Associations, Medical Officers of Health, and others were present.

The draft of a suggested scheme was considered, and it was decided to recommend that a Welsh national committee for nursing be appointed, and that representatives of the county councils, medical practitioners, medical officers of health, county borough councils, Welsh National Memorial Association, Welsh insurance committees, and all other organisations interested be asked to send representatives to a conference to be held in Cardiff on Friday, October 24th, to consider a scheme to be drawn up by a sub-committee, which was appointed at the meeting.

The Secretary of the Irish Nurses' Union has recently pointed out to the Press that in nursing in Dublin Corporation Tuberculosis Hospital lay-trained nurses have been superseded by nuns. In the Skin and Cancer Hospital, Dublin, the same arrangement has been made, and a nun is to succeed the present lay matron at the Crookaling Sanatorium. Mrs. Mortished thinks that if this system is extended there will soon be no room left for the professional nurse in Ireland unless she is a Protestant. This question is not one only of economics; it is one of efficiency, and of the utmost importance to the patient. Is the *religieuse* as well and scientifically trained as the lay professional nurse? If she is not, then this reversion to nursing by nuns must be injurious to the standard of health in Ireland.

A woman, Emily Gertrude Wenham, calling herself a nurse, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment at the West London Police Court, for taking a flat and stealing a quantity of furniture, china, wine, cigars, and other property, to the value of £350. Had there been a Nurses' Register in print the lessee could have discovered the fraudulent statement before letting his house.

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