

its support of the Central Committee's Bill for the State Registration of Nurses, which it helped to draft, and representation on the Midwives Board and the Irish Nurses Tribute Fund. Two examinations for the Massage Section were held in 1918 for the certificate of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses. About 30 students entered on each occasion. At a special Examination in Theory and Practice of Medical Electricity, a Dublin candidate took 1st place, with Distinction Certificate, among over 300 entrants. Gifts of books and donations will be gratefully accepted by the Library Committee.

The Irish Matrons' Association sent a resolution to the various Irish Nurse Training Schools, stating that it was of opinion that three years' training in the wards of a recognised Training School or Schools for Nurses was essential to entitle V.A.D. Nurses to a certificate of a Trained Nurse.

All information concerning these pioneer Associations can be obtained from Mrs. O'Keeffe, Secretary, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, Ireland.

### FORTITUDE.

By MALTBE D. BABCOCK.

Be strong!

We are not here to play, to dream, to drift;  
We have hard work to do, and loads to lift.  
Shun not the struggle, face it—'tis God's gift.

Be strong!

Say not the days are evil—who's to blame?  
And fold thy hands and acquiesce—Oh, shame!  
Stand up, speak out, and bravely, in God's name.

Be strong!

It matters not how deep entrenched the wrong,  
How hard the battle goes, the day how long;  
Faint not, fight on! To-morrow comes the song.

—From "The Canadian Nurse."

### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

The present great industrial unrest is due to the fact that men refuse any longer to work for men who want to fether them, but demand to stand up face to face with them as brothers.  
—*Bishop Brewing.*

### COMING EVENTS.

*October 10th.*—Society for State Registration of Nurses: Meeting of Executive Committee, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4 p.m.

*October 11th.*—Association of Trained Nurses in Public Health Work. Conference. Offices of Royal British Nurses' Association, 10, Orchard Street, London, W.1. Paper on "Nursing Schools" by Miss Freere. Fully trained nurses invited, 3.30 p.m. Tea.

*October 14th.*—The Society for the Study of Inebriety. Eighth Norman Kerr Memorial Lecture. Mrs. Mary Scharlieb, C.B.E., M.D. "The Relation of Alcohol and Alcoholism to Maternity and Child Welfare." 1, Wimpole Street, Cavendish Square, W. 1.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

#### TRAINED NURSES IN PUBLIC HEALTH.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I think Miss Alderman makes rather a large demand when she asks all trained nurses in Public Health not to take advice from correspondents who do not sign their names to the statements they make, for the advice may be good, and they may have valid and sufficient reasons for preferring to use a pseudonym.

Your correspondent takes exception to the recent Circular issued to Local Authorities from the Ministry of Health on the ground that it does not lay down the principle that the minimum qualification for Public Health appointments should be three years' general training in a recognised training school. Every trained nurse would be glad to see this standard adopted, but are we sure that there are sufficient trained nurses ready and willing to take up the appointments which will have to be filled? My own view is that the practicable course for the Ministry of Health to adopt at present is to urge Local Authorities to give preference to suitable applicants who are trained nurses.

But we must not forget, as the Board of Education points out in the Prefatory Memorandum of its Draft Regulations for the Training of Health Visitors, that while "it is fully recognised that the three years' training necessary for a fully qualified hospital nurse is of value to a Health Visitor... these courses do not cover many of the functions which a Health Visitor may be expected to perform."

Even for the work of District Nursing, which is more closely allied to hospital nursing than that of Health Visiting, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute has found that a further special training is necessary for Queen's Nurses, and the six months' course it has established is invaluable to those taking up district nursing.

I quite agree that it would be absurd to send a girl of twenty, whatever her previous training, to give advice as Health Visitor, but the Memorandum of the Board of Education expressly states, in regard to the courses proposed, that "it has to be recognised that students who enter at the minimum age (18) will only be 20 years of age on the completion of their course, and generally will not be sufficiently experienced or mature at once to take posts of responsibility." It contemplates that they will either take a further course of training, or take posts of limited responsibility in Infant Welfare Centres or elsewhere.

A girl could scarcely occupy her time better, while waiting to enter a hospital for training, than by taking the Health Visitors' course proposed.

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