

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses will be held on November 6th, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., at 4 p.m. Nominations for the offices of Vice-President (one), Directors (two), Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer must reach the Hon. Secretary at 431, Oxford Street by October 23rd.

IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The first Executive Committee of the Irish Nurses' Association for the winter session was held on Saturday, October 4th, at the Association's rooms, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. Miss Reeves, R.R.C., President, was in the chair, and there was a good attendance of members. Five new members and nine associates, were elected.

The Munster nurses, who have formed an association in Limerick, consisting of medical, surgical, fever, and maternity nurses, with a membership of 100, applied for affiliation and were accepted.

Lady Hermione Blackwood was appointed representative of the National Union of Trained Nurses on the Executive Committee of the I.N.A.

M. L. O'KEEFE,
Secretary.

A NURSES' TRADE UNION.

It is the duty of a professional organ to keep its readers informed of all movements calculated to affect their profession; we have therefore during the past week taken steps to inform ourselves of the progress of the new movement of the organisation of the Professional Society of Trained Nurses, which proposes to register as a Trade Union, and we would advise trained nurses to acquaint themselves more fully on the whole question of trades unionism before either joining or opposing the movement. One thing is quite evident from our enquiries, *i.e.*, intelligent and independent trained nurses are thoroughly dissatisfied with the present economic conditions of their so-called profession, and mean to make a steady stand against the further depreciation and subjugation of their work, as they realise that if they do not do so now, both freedom of contract and honourable status will be filched from them.

We learn the leaders of the movement are carefully drafting the constitution of the society under good legal advice, and that it is intended to hold

a free public meeting in London to explain and launch the scheme at an early date, when it is anticipated that enthusiastic support will be forthcoming.

We have during the past week invited expressions of opinion from working nurses for and against a Trade Union for trained nurses, and have received some interesting and amusing replies:—

1. "Nothing else left for us to do, if we are to retain a shred of independence."
2. "I consider the suggestion a disgrace to the profession."
3. "This child will be there."
4. "It is the rebound of College camouflage."
5. "The Matrons have formed an Association by telegram, and are constantly taking counsel together at the Royal Free. We only intend to follow their example."
6. "I wish the trade union success, but mean to take up other work before I am relegated to the workhouse."
7. "I shall certainly join, as now we are governed by Society women and actresses."
8. "I strongly disapprove of any such movement. Nurses cannot strike."
9. "Thank you for editorial last week. Nurses are so ignorant of the ethics of trades unionism. If the way we have been treated during the war is not enough to make one's blood boil, the way the employers in both Houses united to smash our Bill is a lesson we have taken to heart."
10. "A trade union for nurses will be a decided step down."
11. "The Majority of middle-class workers are such snobs—they prefer the patronage of the 'greats' to independence through honest work. I hope the new union will succeed, but 'I hae ma doots.'"
12. "I belong to the College, but I shall join the trade union. I suppose they can't expel me or remove my name from their register?"
13. "As the clergy are starting a trade union, following the example of other professional classes, like the actors, why should not professional nurses be in the swim?"

It is announced in the Press that the Rev. C. Lloyd Evans, Vicar of Milborne St. Andrew, Blandford, Dorset, is starting a Trade Union for the Clergy.

IRISH NURSES' UNION.

It is announced that the Irish Nurses' Trade Union hold a whist drive and dance in Dublin on Wednesday evening in aid of the starting of an Irish nurses' journal, which aims at bringing about an improvement in the working conditions of Irish nurses where necessary. The co-operation of Matrons, doctors, nurses, and of the public who sympathise with the trained nurses of Ireland is invited.

Why doctors and matrons? Surely the very essence of trades unionism is self-government in attaining self-support and independence.

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