

the following telegram was despatched to Dr. Addison at the close of the meeting.

A large and enthusiastic meeting to discuss Trade Unionism for nurses sends unanimous vote of thanks for introduction of Nurses' Registration Bill.—MAUDE MACCALLUM, CHAIRMAN.

The meeting terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The necessity for a Trade Union for Nurses has now been publicly proposed, discussed and agreed. We congratulate Miss MacCallum, Miss Jentie Paterson and the promoters on the initial success of the movement, which can only attain full fruition by steady application, courage and self-sacrifice.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES AND TRADE UNIONISM.

In June last the National Union of Trained Nurses decided to call an Autumn Council Meeting in November, to discuss the advisability of forming a Trade Union for Nurses. When the Council met, information had been received that "The Professional Union of Trained Nurses" had already taken steps to form such a union. In consequence of this, it was decided that the National Union of Trained Nurses would not proceed further in the matter; though the members of the Council present supported the principle of trade unionism.

SANITARY INSPECTORS AND HEALTH VISITORS' TRADE UNION.

It may not be generally known that the Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors' Association, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, London, W.C. 2, is registered as a trade union (president, Dr. Janet E. Lane Claypon). Writing in the *Manchester Guardian*, "G.S." says:—"A recognised trade union can conduct negotiations for increase in salaries with local bodies that will often refuse otherwise to consider such applications. It can also, and has already done so, offer effective help in cases of victimisation or hardship. The present minimum salary demanded by the union for health visitors in London is £120, plus war bonus on the current Treasury scale (20 per cent. of salary plus £40). This minimum is clearly not a very high one in view of the present cost of living. The quickest way to raise it is to fill the profession with qualified women and make them all members of their trade union."

IRISH NURSES' UNION.

At the usual weekly meeting of the Committee of the Irish Nurses' Union, held at 29, South Anne Street, Dublin, on the 4th inst., the Secretary reported on the progress of the Union's

claim for higher salaries for District Midwives. In several Districts the Guardians had offered increases ranging up to £20 per annum.

Dublin Guardians, on the Union's application were seeking Local Government Board sanction for increases averaging about £50 for the Hospital Staff, and the Union was still negotiating on this and other improvements.

Other matters dealt with included State Registration, and meetings in Waterford, Kilkenny and Dublin.

THE FIRST DUTY OF THE STATE.

Lord Knutsford writes to the *Saturday Review* in somewhat pessimistic tone on the financial future of hospitals. He says:

"There is a great difference between advocating the putting of hospitals on the rates, and our being compelled to do so as an unavoidable necessity. I think with you that the necessity will come, if it has not come already. Any alternative is better than to have the work of hospitals cramped in every direction for want of funds. This would mean an end to medical progress at the very moment when the country is intent on and ripe for such progress. We who have been responsible for these voluntary hospitals have done our best to keep them off the rates. Seemingly we have to throw up the sponge, and we can only hope that whatever fate is in store for them they may be carried on with higher ideals than are generally characteristic of rate-supported hospitals."

It is high time the State recognised its responsibility for the standard of health of the people—and this can only be done if it is willing to finance preventive and curative scientific treatment in every particular. The voluntary hospitals have played a fine humanitarian part in caring for the sick—but in future every effort that science can devise must be made to prevent disease. Life is a glorious gift, full of joy in every degree—if the blood is pure—but life is not worth living when it is poisoned and the body in pain. To be happy we must be healthy, and happiness is worth a mint of money.

A PRACTICAL SCHEME.

A really practical bit of work by the Red Cross Society has the approval of the Ministry of Pensions, which has decided to avail itself fully of the use of the ambulances delivered to county directors of the R.C.S. for the service of the general public. Out of 296 ambulances allotted 171 have been handed over. Reports have been received of 42 ambulances which have completed three months' service, showing that these cars carried in that period 1,097 cases, an average of 26 cases per ambulance. The number of miles travelled by the 42 cars was 18,516—an average of 17 miles per patient. The figures quoted include pension cases as well as ordinary civilian patients.

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