

coming? (1) Direct representation of nurses by nurses; (2) an independent governing Body; (3) a defined standard of nursing education; (4) a uniform test examination and certificate; (5) the protected title of "Registered Nurse"; (6) a protected uniform; and (7) an appeal to the High Courts. These are the basic principles defined in the Central Committee's Bill which Committee E adopted and which the House of Commons were prepared to grant (if precious hours had not been purposely wasted by College representatives). Let every independent nurse do her part to win these great privileges for the profession as a whole, including the members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., whose autocratic and vindictive Council has spared neither time nor charity-money in depriving the profession of their Charter of Rights.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Report for 1918—May, 1919, of the National Union of Trained Nurses, is now published, and, as usual, contains an immense amount of information, both in regard to the activities of the Union and of the profession at large. The cover bears, in the centre of the letterpress, the pretty six-pointed star, and motto of the Union (*Per Ardua ad Astra*), produced in its distinctive green colour, and underneath the words, "A Union to maintain the highest ideals of the Nursing Profession." The Report of the Executive Committee indicates the many directions in which the Union has accomplished a very full year's useful work, and thus defines its policy:—

"The aims of the N.U.T.N. remain what they have always been. We work to raise the standard of nurses, to give them wider freedom and better conditions of service in order that a happy, well-organized, well-educated and well-paid body of nurses may be ready to help the public. The demand for efficient public service will not end with the war. A great and new field for usefulness is only just opening out, and will, we believe, need many still more highly specialized women to develop it; under the Ministry of Health preventative work will take its right place and possibly be considered as more important than the curative side; nurses who are to do their noble part in the care of mothers and young children will need to be devoted to their profession, and continue to remember our motto, 'Per ardua ad astra.' We now have the vote, which proves a new and cogent way of influencing Parliament. We have also the prospect, under an Act for State Registration, of a General Nursing Council, representative of the nurses, and it is the duty of each individual member to consider earnestly how these new powers can best be used for the

good of the community and the improvement of our profession."

We wish the Union, and especially the group of earnest organisers at 46, Marsham Street, prosperity and success in their efforts for the welfare of the nursing profession.

NURSES AND TRADE UNIONISM.

The Irish Nurses' Union (Branch of the Irish Women Workers' Union) have submitted the following resolution for the consideration of the Irish Trades Congress which meets at Drogheda on August 4th:—

"That this Congress, being aware of the conditions of work, hours, and remuneration of all grades of trained nurses, condemns them as thoroughly unsatisfactory, and recommends the work of the Irish Nurses' Union to the assistance of all Trade Unionists, and particularly of all Labour members of Boards of Guardians, City and County Councils, and other Public Boards."

An informal conference was held in London on July 11th to consider effective political organisation for trained nurses, owing to the action of the College of Nursing, Ltd., directed by employers, in the House of Lords, and the wrecking of the Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Commons by its representatives. An explanation of trades union law was presented.

ASYLUM STRIKES.

The strikes in Irish Asylums are very serious indeed, and must result in great suffering for the poor demented patients. It is reported that the emergency staff of attendants in Clonmel Asylum has been withdrawn by the strikers and 700 inmates are left to their own resources, there being only the two doctors, matron, storekeeper, and clerk on duty. The strike, which followed on the refusal of the management committee to grant full rates of wages to young and inexperienced attendants, has lasted five weeks, and all attempts at settlement have failed.

About 100 patients have escaped or been taken home by relatives. Conditions in the asylum are bad, but patients have conducted themselves remarkably well and no casualties have occurred. Liberty men help in feeding fellow-patients and in looking after crops.

PREFERENCE FOR V.A.Ds.

£900 FOR A V.A.D.

The V.A.D.s are doing fine out of the War. Miss Laura Sanders, of Ashey, a V.A.D. nurse at Leavesden Asylum, has been awarded a £900 scholarship to enable her to graduate as a doctor. This is amazing!

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