

been suggested that a meeting shall be held in Italy, but so far Peace is too recent to have made it possible to decide the wisest course as to international intercourse.

Miss Helen Scott Hay has been placed in charge of the Nursing Service of the American Red Cross Mission in the Balkan States. Miss Florence Paterson has been made Chief Nurse of the Nursing Unit assigned by Miss Scott to Roumania.

Miss Elizabeth H. Flaw, President of the Canadian Association of Nursing Education, writing in *The Canadian Nurse*, says:

"The eight-hour day in hospital training schools promises to be an outstanding item in the agenda at the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Nursing Education. The principle of the eight-hour day is the subject of consideration at gatherings much more important than ours will be. At perhaps the most historic conference in the history of the world, the high contracting parties who are now making the second treaty at Versailles, the most momentous pact ever entered into between nations, recognised "that the well-being, physical, moral and intellectual, of industrial wage-earners is of supreme international importance." This is an extract from the nine labour clauses in the treaty. The nurse in training is not an industrial wage-earner; but her status, her sex, and the responsibilities for which she is preparing herself, demand for her infinitely greater consideration.

"The eight-hour day which the Peace Conference proposes for the industrial worker and the ten or twelve-hour day which exists for the nurses scarcely seem compatible. It has been demonstrated that twelve or even fourteen hours off duty is not sufficient for the nurse to store up the nervous energy given out in working at high tension in the hospital ward. Exhaustion of the nervous centres produced by a continuous drain upon them has been only too familiar. Impaired efficiency, therefore, is a direct consequence of the over-evolution of nervous energy; and the patients in the care of those nurses suffer—not because of any unwillingness or want of consideration on the part of the nurse, but because of her reduced efficiency, due directly to long hours of nursing.

"In one of the States where there is labour legislation, it includes the pupil nurses; but if our schools, whose standards we have taken

some pride in raising, even to their present status, are really to be considered schools, it would not be possible for them to be under labour laws. To obviate the chance of having the privilege of legislation for ourselves taken from us, would it not be better to place ourselves beyond the control of labour laws by recognising, as a nursing body, that shorter hours are necessary, that the responsibility is ours, and we must endeavour to educate and enlighten the public opinion on behalf of our work."

### THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Meeting of the above Society will be held on July 17th, at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., at 4.30 p.m., when a full report of the progress of State Registration will be presented.

At last the Government has given a *bonâ fide* pledge in the House of Commons that a Bill for the Registration of Nurses will be brought in by the Government as soon as possible, subject to the exigencies of the Session, and a resolution will be submitted thanking Dr. Addison, the Minister for Health, for this pledge, and urging upon him the urgent necessity for redeeming this promise at the earliest possible date.

A Resolution will appear on the Agenda, thanking Major Barnett, M.P., for his very great services in the cause of nurses' registration, and also one of thanks will be proffered to the National Council of Women for its statesmanlike support of the Nurses' Bill, and the principles for which the organised Nurses' Societies stand, which promoted the reform.

A resolution condemning the conduct of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., in wrecking, by contentious obstruction, the passage of the Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Commons will also be considered.

### NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The National Union of Trained Nurses has issued its Report 1918-1919. We hope to refer next week to the record of its useful activities. Like all other Nurses' Organisations, the N.U.T.N. has been up to its eyes in Registration in their efforts to preserve the autonomy of the Nursing Profession by Act of Parliament.

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