

who merely pay a small subscription to the central fund, and get their nursing, such as it is, for comparatively nothing.

A warning sounded by Miss Lavinia Dock in a letter to hospital superintendents, printed in the *National Hospital Record*, so far back as January 15th, 1909, can be well heeded at the present time. She says:

"The plea for laxity in preliminary educational standards, low entrance requirements for hospital training schools, and even for shorter terms of training, is often made with great skill of argument, and can be so presented as to sound extremely plausible; especially when present difficulties, graphically portrayed and emphatically dwelt upon, are placed well to the forefront of the statement.

"Yet it is a singularly shortsighted plea—that of providing at all costs for the present, without reflection as to the future. It is, indeed, an unstatesmanlike type of mind that can advocate a deliberate choice of lower, instead of higher standards of education, because this kind of policy tends ultimately to self-destruction. It is like the pit that one digged and into which he himself fell.

"The thing of real importance is not that nurses should be taught less, but that all women should be taught more; not that courses of training for any serious work should be shortened, but better filled.

"The present is urgent, but those in places of responsibility and authority have not the moral right to ignore the future."

As we have already announced, it was decided to wind up the Asylum Workers' Association at the end of last year, the grounds being that "for business people to carry on in face of warning of impending financial collapse would be the height of folly," and that "the necessity for the further existence of the Association would seem to have disappeared, to judge by the poor support which it has been receiving at the hands of mental hospital workers."

It has further been decided "that the Convalescent Fund of the A.W.A. be handed over to the Medico-Psychological Association, with the request that applications for grants from old members of the A.W.A. receive special consideration."

A special meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the A.W.A., at which Dr. Shuttleworth recently presided, decided that the Association should ask for recognition on behalf of mental nurses in connection with the Nurses Registration Bill then before the House

of Commons, "it being the only Association of mental nurses which could possibly be represented in connection with the new Bill." The two candidates adopted were: Mrs. Chapman, M.P.A., Hon. Treasurer, who has held Matrons' posts in several mental hospitals; and Mr. Harry Howes, M.P.A., Inspector, Metropolitan Mental Hospital, Tooting Bec.

We are glad that the Association was on the alert as to the interests of mental nurses in connection with the State Register, but we wish that it had supported the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses in its work, both by sending delegates to share its deliberations, and by contributing to the expense of its Parliamentary campaign.

Mr. Herbert Morrison, Secretary of the London Labour Party, has written to the Minister of Labour in opposition to "the endeavours of the Mental Hospital Association to secure exclusion of mental nurses from the 48 Hours Bill."

The post of Matron of the Chelsea Hospital for Women, now vacant, is an interesting and important sphere of work, and no doubt there will be many applicants. Full particulars are given in our advertisement columns, from which it will be seen that candidates must be between the ages of 30 and 40, and must have had at least three years' training in a large general hospital, and experience in hospital administration. Two former Matrons of this hospital were Miss Mildred Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., late Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, and Miss M. S. Riddell, R.R.C., now Principal Matron, Q.A.I.M.N.S.

As will be seen from our advertisement columns, the Birmingham General Hospital has recently revised its scale of salaries for the Nursing Staff. The Ward Sisters now receive £60, rising by £5 a year to £75. The Probationers receive £18, £22 and £28, and Staff Nurses £40. Corresponding increases have been granted in the higher nursing posts.

The Southwark Guardians have decided to increase the war bonus to Probationer Nurses from £5 to £15 per annum as from the 1st December, 1919, such increase to apply to existing Probationers, as well as to Probationers appointed subsequently to that date, the salary to remain as at present, *viz.*, £20 for the first year, £23 for the second year, and £26 for the third year.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)