

We hear that great interest has been aroused amongst Glasgow nurses concerning the meeting convened at the Scottish Nurses' Club, 205, Bath Street, on Feb. 14th at 2.30, when the aims and objects of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses will be discussed. We do hope Matrons and Nurses who have not studied trade unionism in relation to Nursing will attend and hear what the speakers have to say. It is a great temptation to refuse to listen to opinions to which one has a preconceived objection. But in these rapid times that is, after all, the policy of the ostrich, and it is not considered a bird notorious for its perspicacity! Dr. MacGregor Robertson is to be in the chair.

"You-all gotta wait fo' yoah supper 'til I ster'lise de ice pick," said a coloured cook to her mistress. "I done drop'd it on de flo' and de hygiene teachah tol' me to be careful er germs."

This was heard in a small town in Georgia, says the *Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing*, where a course in Home Hygiene was being offered to the coloured women by the Red Cross Public Health Nurse. The instructor pictured to them vividly the spread of bacteria, and told them that germs could be carried to food by dirty handling, and by contamination of soiled dish-towels, unsanitary refrigerators, and so forth.

After the first lesson women reported that their cooks came home, scrubbed the refrigerator, cleaned the stove, and burned up all the dish-towels.

We seem to hear nothing through our newspapers of the sorry condition of Poland and Serbia. The American Red Cross appears to be still struggling with the sad conditions prevailing. In Kalisz, Poland, alone from January to July, 1919, there were 124,000 typhus cases. The American Red Cross has an appropriation of 2,000,000 dollars, and over one hundred persons at work. In Serbia, one hundred beds in their Chachak Hospital is the sole weapon in possession of the Serbian Relief Committee for use in reaching thousands of sick children in Central Serbia. It is reputed that thirty per cent. of the Serbs have tuberculosis and trachoma, and bad teeth are prevalent. Also, typhus stalks abroad once more, while small-pox, malaria, influenza, cholera and pneumonia haunt the villages, and feed upon the starving women and children. Most of the children are orphans, and many are entirely naked. Hundreds were ferreted out of the half-burned ruins, where they had concealed themselves, curled

up, quietly dying. What is our Red Cross doing? It has still thousands of pounds unspent, or surely it could not be subsidising the Midwives Institute, Nurses' Clubs, and educating V.A.D.'s.

We were talking to a really kind woman the other day of these terrible conditions, when she astonished us by saying: "I am weary of war and all its horrors. I don't seem to be able to feel these things any more, and you know I never pretend. Talk of something else."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS.

Broad-minded nurses with international sympathies are beginning to ask "When and where are we to have the next International Nursing Congress?" That point has not yet been settled, but the good comradeship which resulted before the war, between the nurses of all nations, from these gatherings is acknowledged by all, in spite of everything which has happened since. The Cologne Meeting still remains a memory, at which the representatives of twenty-three countries came together in amity and learned many things for the benefit of humanity from one another. The German men and women who took part in that Congress were all out against tyranny and ignorance where nursing and suffering were concerned, just as we have been for the past thirty years.

Miss L. L. Dock writes that at the great gathering of American nurses at Atlanta, April 12th to 17th, international matters are to receive consideration. Alas! owing to the immense expense it is very improbable that any officer of our National Council will be present; but we should meet at an early date and send our suggestions. The Norwegian and Italian nurses are applying for affiliation with the International Council, and a meeting in Italy in the near future would be very acceptable to many of us. Queen Elena's School of Nursing at Rome, organised on Florence Nightingale lines, takes precedence of all others, and the fine work of Miss Dorothy Snell, as its Superintendent, deserves to be better known throughout the Nursing world than it is.

We hear a Dutch Sister from the Rotterdam Nosokomos is going to Atlanta. We congratulate Nosokomos. The Dutch are still striving for legal status, through State Registration, and now that time can again be devoted to domestic politics, we hope their Government will follow the example of ours, and do justice to its nurses, who are a very fine body of women.

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