

For some time past there has been friction at the Cumberland Infirmary. Twenty-seven nurses and probationers in the institution signed a round robin formulating their grievances. Those grievances were dealt with by the committee, and, after many meetings, considerable concessions were made. Final peace, however, was not achieved, and the committee asked for the assistance of an arbitrator. They secured the services of Sir Napier Burnett, who interviewed nurses, members of the staff, and some governors from the outside, and, after the delay of some five weeks, he rendered his report.

That report, which was very full, dealt with the grievances and, which was important, also with the management of the Infirmary. He made various suggestions. Some were practicable, but others, owing to the financial condition of the Infirmary, were not considered to be so. This report, contended Dr. Lediard, should be at the disposal of the governors.

Considerable discussion followed. Mr. Allan Hodgson, chairman of the Committee of Management, held that it would be prejudicial to the interests of the institution and to the parties mentioned in the report if it were made public.

Let us hope that one result of publicity will be reform in the nursing department. It sadly needs bringing up-to-date, and has lagged behind for a very long time.

The first National Conference of the Irish Nurses' Union was held at Larch Hill, the Irish Women Workers' Hostel, Rathfarnham, County Dublin, on September 3rd and 4th, under the chairmanship of Miss L. Bennett, Secretary of the Irish Women Workers' Union. Twenty-four delegates attended from all parts of Ireland, representing nurses in Union hospitals, tuberculosis, baby clinic, and other public health services, nurses in private practice, and midwives in dispensary and private practice.

Mr. T. R. Johnson, the Secretary of the Irish Labour Party, welcomed the delegates on behalf of Irish Labour, and dwelt on the necessity for effective organisation in view of the great extension of public responsibility for health services which would inevitably develop in the future.

Improvements in salaries and other conditions already secured were reported, and the necessity for a reduction in hours of duty was discussed. New rules were adopted, and Executive Committees for the Nurses' and Midwives' Sections were elected.

PAY OF ARMY NURSES.

An Army Order just issued from the War Office announces the new rates of pay and retired pay of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. and of the permanent nursing establishment of the Military Families' Hospitals.

The new annual rates of pay of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. are as follows: Matron, £115 minimum, rising by £10 yearly to a maximum of £185; Assistant Matron, £85, rising by £5 a year to £95; Sister £75, rising by £5 to £85; and Staff Nurse, £60, rising by £2 10s. to £65. The new annual rates for the nursing staff of Military Families' Hospitals are: Matron at Aldershot, £115, rising by £10 increments to £185 maximum; Matron at other stations, £75, by £5 to £85; and Charge Nurse £60, by £2 10s. increments to £65. These rates have effect from April 1st, 1920. In addition to these rates, charge pay for Matrons of Q.A.I.M.N.S. will be at rates not exceeding £45 a year; and for Matrons at Military Families' Hospitals, at stations other than Aldershot, £20 or £30 a year according to the number of beds.

Retired pay will comprise a service element based on total service (£3 for each year of service) and a rank element for the rank from which the nurse retires; but a nurse retiring with less than ten years' complete service will not be eligible for retired pay. The maximum rates of these two elements together are as follows: Matron, Q.A.I.M.N.S. and at Military Families' Hospital at Aldershot, £170; Sister Q.A.I.M.N.S. and Matron of Military Families' Hospitals at stations other than Aldershot, £75; and Staff Nurses and Charge Nurses (Military Families' Hospital), £55. These rates will have effect from April 1st, 1919.

The rates of pay and retired pay of Matrons-in-Chief and principal Matrons are still under consideration.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Miss H. L. Pearse, President of the National Union of Trained Nurses, will speak on September 17th, at 6.30 p.m., on "The Hours of Employment Bill," at 46, Marsham Street, Westminster. As soon as Parliament reassembles the discussion as to whether professional nurses shall or shall not be included in it, is likely to arouse a good deal of interest. Many nurses wish to be included but hospital managers prefer "no State interference." This was their reason for opposing State Registration for a quarter of a century.

PRESENTATION.

A presentation has been made to Nurse A. Emby, who, after sixteen years as District Nurse at Wallsend, is leaving the borough. Mrs. Hope, of West View, handed to Nurse Emby a wallet of Treasury notes subscribed by friends, patients and tradesmen of the town as a token of the love and esteem in which she was held.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)