

General Staff, headed by our old enemy, General March, after one final convulsive effort to escape the bitter dose, has taken its medicine manfully and given its approval to regulations which are highly satisfactory and which should give easy effect to our victory.

As I send you this, the last official bulletin on Rank for Nurses, I want you to know of the very deep sense of obligation we of the National Committee feel toward you and every other friend on our mailing list for your indispensable co-operation. God giveth the increase, but only after Paul has planted and Apollos watered. Without your unfailing response to innumerable appeals in season and out of season, no success whatever could have been achieved. We are gladly conscious of this fact, proud of the idealism whose urge you felt.

I wish also personally to thank you for your whole-hearted trust in your counsel. Without the full confidence of one's co-workers one makes but a poor servant; but I think it is given to few to enjoy a richer measure of faith than you have given me. Always it has been an inspiration to better endeavour. Always the recollection of it will be one of my chief treasures. It is proper, is it not, for me to tell you so?

There is not room in this bulletin even to mention the names of the hundreds who have furthered Rank, much less recount their signal services. Yet there is one in tribute to whom I know you will all wish to join, for to her we owed at a time of financial stress the very life and continuance of our work. To her service on our finance committee, whose chairmanship no other would accept, we are indebted for a freedom from anxiety as to funds without which we could not well have gone forward. Of the total sum raised and expended for Rank, almost a third was obtained by your dearly beloved Anna C. Maxwell of New York. For this superb assistance should we not all pay her endless thanks, for ever associating her devotion with the achievement of the dignity of Rank for Nurses?

Rank for Nurses is here and we rejoice. Since its achievement was at all times inevitable, we are tempted to regret, almost with bitterness, that in addition to the incalculable difficulties of their task the noble army of nurses who fought in the Great War should have had to suffer and endure so much that Rank would have made impossible. But the blood and tears of their tribulations were the seed of the new dignity for all to come. In that knowledge philosophy bids us be thankful and content.

Again for the Committee and myself I thank you for your co-operation in a noble cause and congratulate you on your part in its success.

Faithfully yours,

HELEN HOY GREELEY,

Counsel.

Washington, D.C.

August 18th, 1920.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES

The autumn lectures will be as follows:—

October 15th, at 6 p.m.—Councillor Beatrice Kent will inaugurate a course on Citizenship with a lecture on Civic Duties and Responsibilities. This will be followed on—

November 19th and December 17th, at 6 p.m., by other lectures or debates.

London Branch members are reminded that the next Monthly Meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on October 9th.

Members are particularly asked to make a special effort to attend these meetings.

VOX POPULI IN THE "GLOBE."

So voluminous was the correspondence aroused by the action of the Editor of the *Globe*, in giving free expression to the nursing profession concerning present conditions, in its columns that all last week a brisk discussion was inserted day by day, and for once the public were permitted by the lay Press to learn the truth concerning the economic condition of the professional nurse. We feel sure nothing but good can result from the correspondence. Points emphasised were: The need of protection for nurses in training from irresponsible, though often well-meaning, employers. The determined opposition of many Hospital Committees and Boards of Guardians to freedom of co-operation amongst nurses—and their system of coercion through matrons and other officials—which has culminated in the organization by the employers of the College of Nursing Co.—subsidised by the War Charity—the Nation's Fund for Nurses, which so far has issued no financial report of the thousands of pounds subscribed by the public since 1917!

Mr. Frank Briant, M.P., hopes that, as the Ministry of Health has stated that it is prepared to make certain grants to hospitals, one of the stipulations will be that the Ministry must be satisfied that the conditions of service attached to the nursing are satisfactory.

This we have every hope will be done, on the advice of the General Nursing Council.

Sir Arthur Stanley, Treasurer of St. Thomas' Hospital and Chairman of the College of Nursing, Ltd., gives only partial support to the reforms demanded—yet incidentally acknowledges attempted interference with the authority of the State-appointed Council, by forwarding to the Ministry of Education a scheme for the future training of nurses "which may be adopted by the General Nursing Council and the public departments concerned."

Under the Nurses' Registration Act, a Statutory Authority has been set up for the organization of the Nursing Profession—under the supervision of the Ministry of Health—and it is to be hoped that Ministry will politely intimate to Sir Arthur Stanley that no such interference will be permitted with the duties deputed to the General Nursing Council by Parliament.

Sir Arthur Stanley's remarks brought forward some home truths, which it is to be hoped the College Council will take to heart.

The lack of sympathy and tyrannical methods of the Matrons come in for criticism—and, indeed, their "anti-Registration" tactics are neither forgotten nor forgiven by many of the rank and file. We are glad, however, to note that it is acknowledged that "there are many Matrons who are with us heart and soul"; and we may add that it was largely owing to the good will and generosity of this group of able women that our Registration Bill has become law.

The delay in putting the Nurses' Registration

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