

If a Whitley Council is established the Ministry of Labour will insist on the trade unions being represented, but as a Whitley Council is unable to enforce its recommendations it has no advantages over a Conciliation Board.

Our Nursing Committee hope that your Association will view these proposals favourably, and they believe that the State Nurses' Guild formed on the lines indicated above, supported by the College, and your Association will prove to be the best organisation to have the care of the economic side of the nursing profession.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) JOHN SIMONDS, *Secretary*.

What action the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association intend to take on this letter has not transpired; but nurses in the Poor Law Service have now before them the proposal to form them into a Guild with members of the medical profession, to be affiliated to the National Poor Law Officers' Association, which is composed of lay men and women, medical officers and others of all ranks employed in Poor Law Service—and thus save Poor Law Nurses from associating in a Trade Union, of which the promoters of the new Guild are evidently in considerable fear.

OUR POLICY AND ADVICE.

Unless a body of persons, professional or otherwise, organise on self-governing lines, free from association with, and in consequence control by, those who employ them, they had better remain unorganised, as they are not only a danger to themselves, but to their otherwise free colleagues. As the danger to the fly in the spacious parlour of the spider has been demonstrated over and over again, we need not linger over its inevitable fate—it is *gobbled up*.

Our advice to State Nurses is to follow the example of State Matrons: Form an organisation of their own which is free of official control, elect their own officers, consider their own affairs, record their votes, free of official pressure or suggestion, like the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons have done—or better still, join an organisation of their colleagues, which already enjoys these privileges. Whether it is a trade union or not, is for nurses to decide for themselves.

THE KING AND THE CENOTAPH.

We understand that the King will unveil the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Armistice Day, November 11th.

PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

"THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF NURSING."*

"A WORKING TEXT BOOK."

The aim of the above book, by Miss M. A. Gullan, Sister Tutor of St. Thomas' Hospital, is to form "a working text-book, suggestive rather than exhaustive in character, in the hope that the nurse, during her three years of training, will amplify the bare facts, and build on the suggestions from her own growing experience and knowledge gained in the wards, and in subsequent lectures from members of the Medical and Surgical Staff." The chapters include instruction in surgical technique, food and feeding of patients, digestion, absorption, defæcation and examination of stools, enemata, artificial feeding, lavage and douching, blood and its supply to the tissues, the pulse, respiration, temperature, baths, spongings, packs, micturition and catheterization, administration of drugs, external local applications, acute infectious or contagious diseases, the enteric group, infective diseases of respiratory tract and lungs, acute and chronic heart diseases, and notes on gynæcology; as well as appendices on weights and measures and examination of urine. They summarize the instruction on the Theory and Practice of Nursing given to the nurses training in the Nightingale School of St. Thomas' Hospital, and are adapted to continue the teaching begun in a preliminary training school lasting over two months, and to supplement ward instruction. The author tells us in her preface that the material is illustrated and elaborated in class by microscope, charts, teaching and museum specimens, models, appliances, apparatus, practical demonstrations, and copious reference to actual clinical and practical experience. It will thus be seen that the book covers a wide ground and lays the foundation of sound and useful professional knowledge. Blank leaves are included for brief notes, by the probationers themselves, of clinical and practical experience bearing on the subject. We should like to suggest that future editions should include a chapter on preventive and public health nursing, subjects on which the honoured founder of the Nightingale School laid such emphasis in her classic "Notes of Nursing," in the preface to which she tells us that "every day sanitary knowledge, or the knowledge of nursing, or in other words of how to put the constitution in such a state that it will have no disease, or that it can recover from disease, takes a higher place." The proverb, "Prevention is better than cure," is profoundly true, and it is important to inspire probationers at the outset of their career to regard hospitals as beneficent evils, necessary at the present stage of development of our public health, but mostly palliative at best, while fundamentally the medical

* H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd., 136, Gower Street, London, W.C. 1.

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