

remove from its Register have now under its bye-laws the right to be heard in their own defence before removal, and (2) provision is made for the payment of an annual subscription by members joining after November 20th, 1920. The Council of the College will therefore have an annual income. Its position up to that date of dependence on public charity was most undignified.

#### REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

At the Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses this year, the Society having accomplished its object, was reconstituted as the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, its special purpose being to watch, and to initiate legislation in the interest of trained nurses. In accordance with this purpose it initiated the demand for Rank for Service Nurses, and, although in the first round a discouraging reply has been received from the War Office, we do not doubt that, in the New Year this will only give zest to those who desire to work for the Relative Rank for Navy and Army Nurses which the members of the Royal Air Force Nursing Service already possess.

#### THE NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

This Union, which has always taken an active interest in social questions, and is a great advocate of the citizen nurse, has during the year opened a Club for its members, which will no doubt afford many opportunities for the discussion of subjects of social as well as professional interest, and will be a great convenience also to members desiring to sleep in town.

#### THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

To certain uninformed minds Trade Unions are always associated with strikes. Those who read the synopsis of a paper by Miss McAra, Hon. Secretary of the Glasgow and District Branch of the P.U.T.N., will realise that they have a much wider significance. We are glad to learn that this Union has had a successful year, and we especially congratulate Miss MacCallum, Hon. Secretary of the Union, on refusing to submit to the inexcusable abuse levelled at her in the commercial nursing press. This had become so rampant in the time of the late editor that the whole of the working members of the Nursing Profession owe a debt of gratitude to Miss MacCallum for taking the matter into Court and compelling these people to apologise, and unreservedly withdraw their accusations.

Let us hope that in the New Year this class of paper, which is frankly commercial, will be

content with making money out of the nursing profession without attempting to intimidate it.

Everything points to the progress of the Nursing Profession in the future. Some years will elapse, of course, before the results of standardised education and good discipline will be apparent, but legal status is bound to inculcate a sense of personal and professional responsibility, and amongst Registered Nurses a corporate feeling and united action will be the result.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, the only State Registration organ during the years of struggle for justice, gives the profession one word for future guidance—Loyalty.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL CLEANLINESS IN DAILY LIFE.

An arresting little article "communicated" under the above heading to the *Guy's Hospital Gazette*, will impress those who read it with the importance of the subject, and nurses will do well to pass on the following lesson which it teaches.

"It took surgeons some time to recognise the bearing of the discovery of micro-organisms on their daily work. When once they overcame their surprise at the teaching of Lister they fell to with zeal, and the benefit to the human race has been incalculable. Much still remains to be done before man obtains full benefit from his knowledge of the almost universal presence and deleterious results of maleficent germs. The medical profession can claim little credit for endeavouring to impress upon the public in any detailed form the benefits that would accrue from strict observation of that section of personal hygiene which consists in banishing evil microbes from places where they tend to lurk.

"The fact that carriers of germs whose normal habitat is the intestine are liable to cause infection to large numbers of others if they happen to be cooks should give one furiously to think. Has the medical profession, have the Medical Officers of Health, have the Ministry of Health done anything to inculcate in the public the habit of cleanliness in connection with the act of defæcation? Is any attempt being made in the Ministry of Health's housing scheme to introduce a wash-basin into every water closet? Does anyone remember to have seen in the houses of the rich a wash-basin in connection with the water closet set apart for the servants of the establishment? The present writer, visiting last year one of the colleges of the most aristocratic University in the world,

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