

many nurses seem to have no regard for the inconvenience and extra work caused when they fail to return to work at the appointed time.

In this connection the Chairman of the Infirmary Committee stated that the Matron said that some remarks she had made in the course of conversation might have been misconstrued, and the Medical Superintendent, in his Statement appended to the Committee's Report, says, "I am aware that considerably more late leave is given than was formerly the case."

The next general point to which we draw attention is that the Infirmary—at any rate in some of the wards—is understaffed. No nurse, or even two nurses, male or female, can properly feed and care for 58 helpless patients, the number in the Male Chronic ward. Miss Wamsley's criticism is met by the comment, "The ward was understaffed at the time," and her comment on the need for more nurses in the Children's ward by the statement that "the Committee are considering the question of appointing an additional nurse."

Our own comment here is that while there is a shortage of nurses, nurses must be prepared to stay more than eight hours on duty. Nor would this appear to be a great hardship since, at present, night nurses are only on duty four nights out of seven.

We recommend additional nurses on duty throughout the Infirmary.

"MERELY ABRADED."

In regard to bedsores, the Medical Superintendent's statement that they were "not all what he should call bedsores; several were backs irritated by the very rough material used for draw-sheets, possibly rendered worse by the chemicals used in cleansing them . . . in most of the cases the skin was merely abraded owing to the cause stated above," offers ample justification for the recommendation of the Inspector that a soft absorbent material should be selected.

The statement as to sanitary utensils not being well washed is "partially admitted by the Matron." The lack of tooth brushes in the phthisis wards has now been remedied.

We agree with Miss Michael that the complaints are not slight, and what is also to the point, the Committee have admitted most of them, and rectified some.

The Committee admit that the majority of Miss Wamsley's recommendations are "valuable."

The last word can scarcely have been spoken on this matter. Nothing can justify the abuse levelled at Miss Wamsley for doing what she held to be her duty, and an official has a right to protection in its discharge. An independent inquiry by the Ministry of Health appears to be desirable.

THE BLIND AND MASSAGE.

We are glad to hear that St. Dunstan's Massage Clinic at 18, Christopher Street, Finsbury Square, has already been very successful. All the clinic needs is that it should be known.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL LABOUR PARTY AND THE ORGANISATION OF NURSES.

Mr. G. K. Naylor, J.P., presided at a well-attended meeting convened by the Constitutional Labour Party to discuss the need of organisation amongst nurses, when some very pertinent speeches were made, and questions asked, and resolutions carried.

The Chairman stated that after years of effort the Nurses had been successful in getting an Act for the State Registration of Nurses placed upon the Statute Book, and said that those who had watched the movement closely from the outside could see what a good thing it was for the profession as a whole that the nurses' organisations had had the foresight to see the dangers that might arise from the monopoly that the College of Nursing was trying to obtain, and that they had had the courage to struggle and fight against it. It must, he said, have been very gratifying to those independent nurses who had fought so courageously, to see the Government at last carry through an Act just to the nurses. The Minister of Health had set up a Council representative of all sections of the nursing profession, and it was to be the duty of this Council to draw up the regulations under which the profession will be carried on in the future.

The Chairman then called on Mr. R. Cooper (National Union of Teachers) to move the first Resolution:—

RESOLUTION I.

That this Public Meeting protests against the fact that funds subscribed to by the Public for the Nursing Profession as a whole should be used to endow and maintain a Limited Liability Company, and that other Funds also, subscribed to by the Public for the British Red Cross Society, for those wounded in the war, should be handed over to a Limited Liability Company to dispense, and considers this a violation of the purposes for which the Funds were subscribed.

Miss Maude MacCallum (General Secretary Professional Union of Trained Nurses) seconded, and Mrs. Paul (Chairman P.U.T.N.) supported.

The resolution was carried.

The following Resolution was then moved by Dr. E. A. Gregg (Medico-Political Union), seconded by Mr. J. H. Todd (Chairman Islington Constitutional Labour Movement), and carried:—

RESOLUTION II.

That this Public Meeting calls upon the College of Nursing, Limited, to show proof of the existence of Nurse Juliet, on whose behalf they appealed for funds; or, if such evidence does not exist, to make a public statement as to how the money, collected on her behalf, was spent.

Dr. Gregg referred to the fact that more and more would both professional and craft workers find it necessary to organise. The various Government Departments understood Trade Union language better than any other. In time all workers, whether professional or otherwise, would be classed under the generic name of Labour. They would be proud to be so classed, and Labour

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