

THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

As there is evidence to prove that certain officials are trying to prevent nurses from joining their Professional Union, the following resolution was passed by the Council of the Medico-Political Union:—

"That the Council of the Medico-Political Union, being informed that pressure has been brought to bear on certain persons to prevent them joining a body affiliated to this Union, protests most emphatically against any interference with personal freedom of choice in such matters."

The Constitutional Labour Party also passed the following:—

"To ask the College of Nursing, Limited, whether the money raised for the Nation's Fund and Tribute Fund for Nurses, is being used to send around circulars and print papers, to persuade Nurses to join the College, and to dissuade them from joining their Professional Union," and

"To inform certain Hospitals that the Constitutional Labour Party will not support any Hospital where it can be proved that the Matron or any other official has intimidated or tried to prevent Nurses from joining their own Professional Union."

It is manifestly an unfair thing to try to prevent Nurses from hearing all sides of the question, especially as Mr. Minet, Treasurer of the Nightingale Training School, St. Thomas's Hospital, stated in his speech against Trade Unionism that it was a burning question that Nurses would be called upon to decide for themselves!

MAUDE MACCALLUM,
Hon. Secretary.

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

We are asked by Mr. Hugh Wansey Bayly, Hon. Secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease, 143, Harley Street, W. 1, to say that he has recently received many letters from nurses asking for particulars regarding the aims and objects of the above Society, for details of the methods of Immediate Self-Disinfection which it advocates, and for the evidence on which such advocacy is based. These letters frequently show a misunderstanding of the points at issue between the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease and the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases.

The Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease was founded solely to fill in the gap in the propaganda of the National Council left by their opposition to instruction of the public in the prevention of infection by means of Immediate Self-Disinfection. The S.P.V.D., while freely acknow-

ledging that this is only one of the many methods for diminishing Venereal Disease, believe that this method is an extremely important and valuable one, and their propaganda is devoted solely to bringing this method before the public, not because they are antagonistic to other methods, but because this method was not only neglected, but actively opposed by the N.C.C.V.D. Their work is not in opposition to, but complementary to that of the National Council.

Mr. Wansey Bayly further states that no suggestion has yet been made by the Committee of the S.P.V.D. as to the methods or means by which the public may obtain the necessary disinfecting materials, the fact that such materials are easily obtainable of any chemist being, in their opinion, quite sufficient. The aim of the Society is solely the instruction of the public.

The Society would welcome the teachers of Moral Prevention as Allies working along another line towards the same goal, if they on their part would accept the alliance of the teachers of Medical Prevention, and not waste valuable energy in opposition that is not only unnecessary but hopeless, as long as disinfectants are acknowledged to disinfect.

Mr. Wansey Bayly will be pleased to supply to any nurse who forwards him a stamped and addressed envelope copies of the pamphlets "Directions for Men" and "Directions for Women" issued by the Society, and to give her any further information regarding the Society which she may desire. He will also be pleased to enrol any nurse as an Associate of the Society, for which the subscription is 2s. 6d., which entitles the Associate to free copies of all their literature.

HEALTH INSURANCE WORTH HAVING.

The recent valuation of the funds of approved insurance societies—by which it has been proved that a considerable surplus has been accumulated by those which are well-managed—has evidently aroused the hopes of voluntary hospital managers and district nursing associations whose managers apparently consider that such savings might be well spent in promoting their own good work, and the Parliamentary correspondent of the *Times*, discussing the eagerly awaited report of the Parliamentary Committee on Hospitals, set up by Dr. Addison, to consider their financial condition, makes the statement that "the principal help, it will probably be suggested, may be derived from the accumulated funds in the possession of societies administering the Health Insurance Act," and this is just what the Committee suggests in an interim report.

When one realises that these accumulated funds belong to insured persons, to be administered by their elected committees, by whose good management they exist, we feel sure any suggestion that they should be compulsorily administered by

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