

nurses, with the dual qualification of a certificate of training in general nursing and as a certified midwife, and he promised to appoint one of those nurses nominated by the Association to be a member of the Central Midwives' Board.

Members of the Association and of its Executive Committee will learn with great satisfaction that Miss Gladys M. Le Geyt, one of the two Members nominated by the Executive Committee, has been appointed a Member of the Board. Miss Le Geyt (cert. St. Bartholomew's Hospital) will prove a most able representative of those highly qualified women who possess a three years' certificate for general nursing and the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board, so many of whom are Matrons of Maternity Hospitals and Sisters of Maternity Wards.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

"SPLENDID ISOLATION."

By Act of Parliament the General Nursing Council for England and Wales has been constituted a semi-judicial Governing Body for nurses whose names appear on its Register. It will thus be readily realised that such a Body must preserve a position of isolation, so far as direct association is concerned, with Nurses' Associations, Nursing Societies, and especially with commercial concerns. As we reported in our issue of February 12th, a resolution proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was unanimously passed by the General Nursing Council, incorporating this principle, and it was reaffirmed at its last meeting upon receiving an invitation to participate officially in a Nursing Conference arranged annually in connection with the Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition, held in the Horticultural Hall, Westminster. The wisdom of this policy is amply apparent if entangling alliances are to be avoided.

We note, however, in last week's *Nursing Times* that Mrs. Fenwick's remarks in advancing this desirable policy have been reported in a most inaccurate and misleading manner, and statements attributed to her which she never made.

The facts are these. The Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition is a trade concern, and is organised as such. It fulfils a useful commercial purpose in giving facilities to firms dealing with hospital and nursing appliances to bring their goods to the notice of the public, more especially to nurses and midwives. Without publicity through the Nurses' papers difficulty would be found in reaching this clientèle, so mutual help is arranged on a business basis. Each paper is given space at the Exhibition, and in return gives a certain number of advertisements in exchange, the papers then issue special numbers, covered by advertisements of goods useful to health workers, and are on sale at the Exhibition. So far good.

But there has always been an addition to the Exhibition. A Nursing and Midwifery Conference has been held in a hall close by, and this department was for many years, and probably still is, arranged by the lay editor of the *Nursing Times*.

It is therefore not a professional, but a commercial side-show. At this Conference, matrons and others are invited to present papers on topical questions of interest to the nursing and midwifery professions; and many valuable expert papers and opinions have been presented. These are apparently primarily in the possession of the editor of the *Nursing Times*, to whom in certain instances other newspaper men and women have to apply, and professional reporters have declined to do so.

We believe the mass of expert information contained in these contributions is not paid for, so that the Conference is a fine commercial scoop for the *Nursing Times* and other journals which publish the papers and discussions. They obtain valuable copy for nothing.

As a member of the General Nursing Council, Mrs. Fenwick was merely doing her public duty in preventing the Statutory Nursing Council from being associated with a commercial venture, and lending itself in ignorance to the exploitation of the nursing profession by unprofessional persons. Now that Nursing is a legally constituted profession, we must claim the right to organise our own conferences, and manage our own affairs as other professions do.

M. B.

PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual General Meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses was held at the Plane Tree Tea Rooms, Great Russell Street, on March 29th.

Tea was served at 4 p.m., and was the occasion of many pleasant renewals of friendship between members who had worked together in the past, but who had not met for some years.

Business started at 5 p.m., but owing to illness in her family the Chairman, Mrs. Paul, was unable to remain for the whole of the meeting. Miss Beatrice Kent, Borough Councillor for S.W. St. Pancras, the newly-elected President, however, kindly took her place.

The Chairman, Trustees and Secretary, at present acting, were formally elected, and Miss Parsons as Treasurer.

The principal business of the meeting was of a confidential nature.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

In the course of her presidential address, Miss Beatrice Kent said that she was present at the inaugural meeting of the Professional Union on October 25th, 1919, and was much impressed by the speech of Mr. Alfred Lugg—member of the Actors' Union—who said that few people really understood the true meaning of Trade Unionism, which was simply *Christianity*. Drawing attention to the enumerated "objects" of this Union, she remarked that they connoted *mutual help*—the very word help implied the spirit of fellowship in true democracy—which is the very essence of real Christianity. She thought it necessary to

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