

her flowers to Dr. Hamilton, with the Mayor of Talence, who is delighted that the hospital is going to Bagatelle, looking on. Prominent also amongst those present were Mlle. C. Mignol, of the Maison de Santé, and Miss Patrick, late F.F.N.C.

Preparations are now well in hand for laying the corner stone of the Florence Nightingale College and Nurses' Home, which it is hoped, will take place next month, when Admiral Magruder, and a frigate, with a naval band, will attend the ceremony. A group of American nurses from Paris will also be present and many former pupils of the Nurse Training School.

In the new Home there will be forty-eight rooms for pupils, twenty for staff nurses and head nurses, a big hall, a large dining room, and a lecture room and library. It is hoped that the Home will be opened in January of next year—a fête day indeed—when Miss Clara Noyes hopes to be present.

THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

So much interest and indignation has been aroused by a statement printed and distributed by the Poor Law Workers' Trade Union concerning the treatment of Probationer Nurses in the West Middlesex Hospital under the Brentford Board of Guardians (formerly the Poor Law Infirmary), that Members of Parliament, to whom the statement has been sent, have written offering to help in any way possible. Eminent members of the legal profession have also offered their services without fee, and thousands of ratepayers of the district concerned have forwarded petitions to the Minister of Health asking for an inquiry.

On Easter Monday (March 28th) a dance was arranged for the members of the Nursing Staff. It was customary for the Night Nurses to be allowed to attend the dance from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., and they were relieved by the Day Nurses, who in turn attended the dance from 10 p.m. to 12 o'clock midnight. On these occasions breakfast for the Night Nurses was altered from 8 to 7.30 p.m., and it was regarded as optional for attendance, as refreshments were served at about 9.30 o'clock. On the occasion of this dance the Night Nurses were informed by one of the Sisters that instead of going on duty at 8.30 p.m. they could go to the dance until 10 p.m. These Night Nurses are usually called at 7.30 p.m. (except Saturdays—4 p.m.), and instead of proceeding to breakfast, they prepared for the dance at 8 o'clock, but were subsequently informed by the same Sister that they were to go to duty at 8.30 p.m. as usual. With this instruction they complied.

On the following morning (March 29th), the whole of the Night Staff were summoned to the Matron's Office and without her listening to any explanation were admonished for having broken a regulation by not being at breakfast at 7.30 p.m.

As a consequence certain privileges were sus-

pended, amongst which was the privilege for the Night Nurses to be allowed to "get up" at 4 p.m. on Saturday and to "go out" from that time until 8 p.m.

This action of the Matron's is the basis of all the trouble that has since arisen. Six Nurses and one Medical man have been dismissed (some of the Nurses at two hours' notice, no reason given, but their signatures appeared on a Petition sent to the Chairman by the Staff of the Hospital).

It will be interesting to know how those who have industriously instilled into the minds of Nurses, as an argument against Trade Unionism, that they will be *forced to strike*, explain away the fact that at this special Hospital, fifty or so Nurses, the very large majority of whom belonged to no Union whatever, supported by Medical Men on the Staff, resolved to strike at eight o'clock on a given evening, and but for the fact that a few of the Brentford Nurses belonged to the Poor Law Workers' Trade Union and very wisely put the matter into the hands of the General Secretary, that strike would have taken place. Unorganised Nurses were prepared to use the only weapon in their hand—a strike. A Trade Union came forward and prevented that strike; they had other weapons in their armoury. A deputation immediately waited on the Minister of Health, and interviewed Members of Parliament, meetings of ratepayers in Brentford were organised, and the facts generally made known, thus rendering a strike unnecessary.

The worst feature of the whole business is that young girls from Scotland, Ireland, and the West of England, far from their homes and relations and with very little money, were turned out into a place like London with practically nowhere to go, no one to look after them, at from 12 to 2 hours' notice. No reason given and no explanations heard.

All honour to the medical men who stood by the Nursing Staff!

It is to be hoped that unorganised nurses will take this lesson to heart and join the Unions that are able to help them in time of need. The entire credit of bringing to light this grave injustice is due to the Poor Law Workers' Trade Union.

MAUDE MACCALLUM,

Hon. Secretary P.U.T.N.

MEMORIES OF HOSPITAL DAYS:

Diagnosis.

The Surgery.—Minor accident in. Surgeon notices swelling on man's cheek. Handles it gently; asks class to diagnose it. Stands aside. Several students examine, and ask questions as to discharge, and all diagnose it as a malignant growth. Surgeon steps forward to the man and says sharply: "Spit that quid out." And the man expels a tobacco quid. "When you find a hard movable lump in the cheek," said the surgeon, "always look in the mouth before you diagnose malignant growth."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)