

London Municipal Society has decided to institute an active campaign to cover the whole county, against the crushingly high rates.

The Queen's Nurses at Brighton, Hove and Preston, have an annual entertainment for such of their patients as can attend. It is a happy idea, and last week was carried out in a delightful way. Plenty of fun and presents, good cheer and good will. The arrangements were under the enthusiastic supervision of Miss Godden and a ladies committee, and their guests had a most enjoyable time.

The exacting nature of the Queen's Nurses' work is indicated by the fact that the visits they paid to some 1,500 patients during 1920 numbered no fewer than 80,000, this being an increase of about 17,000 compared with 1919, while the number of patients was 300 larger.

We do hope economic evolution will not eliminate the Queen's Nurse. The necessity of meeting expenses is gradually altering her position in many centres. The paid visiting nurse is more modern—and a necessity, no doubt, for people of moderate incomes; but the highly trained free, devoted servant of the sick poor was the direct descendant of the Sister of Mercy, and we don't want her to disappear, although the poverty and resulting suffering which called her forth, was a stain on our civilisation. We suppose we can't have it both ways.

We are not surprised that a good deal of dissatisfaction is felt and expressed, by nurses trained in India, at the policy of the Indian Government in sanctioning the employment of English-trained nurses at a considerably higher salary than that paid to temporary war nurses in India. It, moreover, gives them £20 to £25 for uniform, and pays passage to India and the return passage at the end of six months. It hardly amounts to more than a pleasant trip at the expense of the Government.

Heartly congratulations to the Joint National Committee of the American Nurses' Memorial Fund for establishing the Nightingale School at Bordeaux, in memory of their colleagues who died on active service during the Great War. The sum of 50,000 dollars has been over subscribed, so will now be handed over to Dr. Anna Hamilton, the Directrice, and the foundation stone laid at an early date at Bagatelle, a lovely estate bequeathed by Mme. Bosc, on which to erect a modern hospital for the poor of Bordeaux. The

plans are ready, and Dr. Hamilton will see all her golden dreams come true. We do, with all our heart, offer her affectionate felicitations, and wish her joy in the organisation of the first Nursing College in France. She has well deserved this great reward in return for her splendid efforts in establishing the highest nursing ethics and standards at the Maison de Santé Protestante over which she presides with so much devotion.

Mlle. Minot, also, please accept congratulations.

The December number of the *South African Nursing Record* states: "It is apparently fairly certain that—provided General Smuts is returned to power at the General Election—the Medical and Pharmacy Bill will come before Parliament next year. From a purely nursing point of view, the Bill is a good one, and will at least afford some measure of protection for the trained nurse and midwife. For this reason, and for the unification of control it will give us, we hope it will go through. It is possible that this Bill will provide for representation of the nursing and midwifery professions on the General Medical Council in some shape or form. We have dealt again with this subject in our leading article of this issue."

Unless the great principle of professional representation on the Council, which is to control nurses and midwives, is amply provided for in the Medical and Pharmacy Bill, we hope the trained nurses of South Africa will oppose such legislation by every means in their power. Such legislation should be entirely impossible in up-to-date Dominions free from the prejudices of old aristocracies. It is as obsolete as the Dodo in Mother England (a fairly autocratic old Dame) in these days. And no harm done!

To read notes from the *South African Medical Record* on the right to representation of nurses on their governing body takes one back to pre-historic times, and we regret the expression of editorial opinion in the *S.A. Nursing Record* "that the Medical Council is the right body to control the affairs of the nursing profession in this country."

Self-control is the only control consistent with justice and freedom of conscience for any body of persons, and we advise our colleagues in South Africa to agitate until they get it.

Any other form of control spells servitude. No specious arguments can alter this fundamental law.

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