

fallen on evil days. The "slump" in trade, and a wage sheet amounting to nearly £200 weekly, has brought it nearly to the verge of ruin. An ordinary factory would have closed down, but how can this do so? Some generous friends have helped to defray the £4,500 owing at the beginning of April, but more is needed. If the Association can tide over the next few months it believes that the position can be saved, and that it can make progress. It is out to help the blind, and does not want to see them starve.

No class of the community deserve our consideration more than these blind workers, whose appeal to the public is "Help us to help ourselves." We know how difficult it is to find money in these days, but even small sums would be welcome from those who value the blessing of sight. The Duke of Connaught is Patron of the Society, and the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London are also Patrons.

Dr. G. A. Sutherland, Senior Physician to the Hampstead General Hospital, writes in regard to the provident scheme, through which it is proposed that subscribers of £1 per year to hospitals shall be entitled to their benefits when ill:—"Four general hospitals in London are named as having joined in the scheme. As regards one of them—the Hampstead General and North-West London Hospital—it may be of interest to state that the Medical Committee, after careful consideration of the working arrangements (prospectus dated September, 1921), have informed their Board of Management of their unanimous decision that the members of the honorary medical and surgical staff are not prepared to take any part in the working of the scheme. A majority of the medical committees of the London general hospitals seem to have acted in the same way, and to have been supported by their governing boards. It is difficult to see how the medical staff of any hospital can retain the title of honorary and at the same time become the paid servants of a commercial insurance company which buys their hospital time and services."

Dame Janet Stancomb Wills, who recently announced her intention of defraying the cost of beautifying the East Cliff extension to provide work for the unemployed at a cost of £15,000, has now given an additional sum of £7,000 to the Ramsgate General Hospital.

The Lord Mayor of Bradford recently dedicated to the public at the Bradford Royal Infirmary the most powerful X-ray plant for the treatment of cancer yet installed in this country. It gives out up to 250,000 volts, which are capable of penetrating a depth of 6 in. below the skin surface without injuring the skin itself. The plant is the gift of Mrs. W. H. Shaw as a thanksgiving for the recovery from serious illness of her husband, a local merchant.

THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

ECONOMIC DAMAGE.

The following resolution was passed unanimously by the Council of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, on the 3rd November, 1921:—

"The Council of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses wish to protest most emphatically against the proposal of certain members of the General Nursing Council to deprive nurses of their rights with regard to their certificates."

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SECTION.

Your presence is requested at a meeting to be held at 17, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1, on Tuesday, the 22nd November, at 6 p.m., to consider the question of salaries for those working in the Public Health Service.

THE SCANDAL OF THE NATION'S FUND FOR NURSES.

When is the scandal of "The Nation's Fund for Nurses" to cease, and who is responsible for the policy of the Committee?

The following letter was sent by this Union to the Secretary of "The Nation's Fund for Nurses":—

*MADAM,—I should like to bring to your notice the case of Miss ——. She claims to be a three-year trained nurse, and says she has done war work from October, 1914, to 1919, and has been incapacitated with trench fever and rheumatism. I understand she worked under the Red Cross during this time, in Flanders, France, Serbia, Dardanelles, Russia, Corfu and England. Being no longer able to work, she tells me she has just been sent over from South Africa to get, if possible, a pension, being English born and English trained. Miss —— tells me she is finding it very hard to live, having no money, and at the present moment it is almost impossible to get lodgings. I would ask your help for her as soon as possible, because the matter is urgent.

I give the reply of the Secretary of "The Nation's Fund":—

MADAM,—I have just received your letter regarding the case of Miss ——. In view of the fact that *my Committee are not at the moment dealing with ex-Service nurses*, there being Army Funds available for the purpose, application should immediately be made to the Ministry of Pensions. Pending a decision, a grant might be obtained from the Special Grants Committee.

It is a grave scandal that the money which was collected in the name of the nurses who had done war service should now be diverted to any other channel whatever.

May I quote from the *Daily Telegraph* of February 28th, 1920? :—

... It strives at nothing less than the adequate endowment of the College of Nursing and the consequent raising of the whole status of the nursing profession, and the provision of a fund which will secure its members against the *haunting fear of destitution when their strength has been spent in the following of their splendid work*. We refuse to believe that, with the war out of the way, the public are ready to forget the heroism and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)