

Certificate—but that was merely a matter of classification for the convenient and orderly arrangement of the Register, it had nothing to do with the hard-won qualifications on which "Existing" and "Intermediate" nurses obtained admission to the Register. To omit these would be to establish an entirely new precedent—and a bad one at that!

Miss Breay concluded by saying that she had endeavoured to present the present position to the meeting—the strong reasons why every nurse should register, the equally cogent reasons why every nurse holding a certificate of training should be on the alert, and express her strong opinion that this fact should be recorded in the State Register. She hoped, and fully believed, that if the General Nursing Council were made aware of the strong feeling which existed on this point it would accede to the wishes of the nurses. To antagonise at the outset the certificated nurses throughout the country, who formed the great bulk of those through whose co-operation the Register must be built up, would be an inconceivably stupid blunder. She hoped that before she met the League again they would have the joy of holding in their hands the State Register of Nurses, in which their certificates were recorded, and that it would fulfil the high hopes of those who had striven so long, so earnestly, and so faithfully for its establishment.

#### DISCUSSION.

Discussion was then invited, and Miss Vincent from the chair invited all present to say (1) how many of them had asked for application forms for the State Register, and returned them. About 14 had done this. (2) How many had asked for application forms, and intended to return them. Some 20 more held up their hands. (3) How many intended to apply for forms. A large number. Miss Vincent stated that she had herself obtained an application form and intended to return it.

Miss Carpenter Turner enquired what was proposed as to a registered uniform, and Miss Pell Smith and others spoke on the certificate and other questions.

Miss Breay's paper was much enjoyed, and her contention that the word "certificated" should appear in the Register, before the names of those nurses holding certificates, was fully upheld.

A Resolution expressing the opinion of the meeting that "the word 'certificated' should stand in the Register against the names of those nurses who possess certificates," was carried unanimously, and the Hon. Secretary, Miss F. M. Embry, instructed to forward it to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Miss Breay for her very able explanation of the Nurses' Registration Act, and to the President of the League (Miss Vincent) for her good offices in the chair.

Members and visitors then adjourned to the Nurses' Sitting Room, where an inviting tea was charmingly set out on little tables, around which parties of friends foregathered. All the cakes were

home-made, and their quality demonstrated that the Leicester Royal Infirmary is fortunate in its cook.

Many members lingered to have a last word with the President, but a very pleasant afternoon came to an end eventually, and the League dispersed to carry on the good work for which the nurses of this famous training school are justly noted.

## THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

### A USE FOR THE NATION'S FUND FOR NURSES.

An article in the new paper called *Health* has been brought to my notice. It makes the following statement, *re* unemployment:—

"For another aspect of the matter, which did not tend to promote professional confidence in the Labour Ministry, was that *unemployment is practically non-existent among nurses*, certainly among hospital nurses, who are the very ones to be included."

I understand this paper is under the same editorship as the *College of Nursing Bulletin*, and that the Editor is not a professional nurse. This may perhaps account for the mistake.

That there is *very much* unemployment is well known to those who come in contact with the working nurse, the reason being obvious. In the first place, the Government have recommended to all public authorities, economy! In many cases, where vacancies occur among public health nurses, they are not filled up, but the work is re-arranged and divided among those who remain.

As to private nurses (who are very numerous), many almost despair of making a livelihood. In order that they may live, their fees have been raised. The income of the public generally, unfortunately, has not been increased, while the railway fares have been almost doubled, and domestic help is hard to procure. Except in very extreme cases, therefore, the ordinary man in the street finds that he cannot afford to call in a nurse, especially to pay her fare from a distance, so he makes shift with local talent (very often untrained).

Having said that there is a great deal of unemployment, the next thing to be done is to try to find a way to help those nurses who, through no fault of their own, are debarred from earning a living wage. Most will agree that to be included in the Unemployment Act as it is at present administered, *i.e.*, having to report to a Labour Exchange and take whatever post is offered from there, is a position no nurse ought to be asked to occupy. The fact remains that we are now under the Act, and there seems very little hope of Parliamentary action being taken in the near future to free us from it. Would it not be better for the Societies dealing with the working nurse, to combine and administer the unemployment benefit themselves?

In an interview at the Ministry of Labour, the Professional Union of Trained Nurses received an assurance from the Minister himself that this could be done under Article XVII of the present

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