

The Matron, two probationer nurses, cook, laundry-maid, and ward-maid of the Billericay (Essex) Council's Isolation Hospital have resigned. It was stated at a recent meeting of the Council that the remaining staff consisted of two nurses, both recently appointed, and a porter.

Recently, at an investigation by the Committee of the Ealing and Chiswick Joint Isolation Hospital into allegations made at an inquest on a scarlet fever patient, the Committee agreed the medical attendant at the hospital and the Matron made an error of judgment; the former for not visiting the hospital and seeing the patient, after the first visit, for thirty hours; the latter for not admitting the family doctor, and telling him he must see the Medical Superintendent.

Asked why she did not permit the family doctor to see the patient, she said: "Perhaps I might have admitted him; but I was tired, and did not know quite what to do."

Further, she was asked if she considered scrubbing, cleaning and cooking part of her duty. To which she replied that shortage of domestic labour made it necessary.

We want to express our sympathy with this Matron, and consider that, instead of censure, the Committee owed her a vote of thanks for wearing herself out doing drudgery, presumably for the benefit of the patients, whilst the demoralising dole system makes it impossible to procure domestic workers.

During a recent visit to the Lady Havelock Hospital, the de Soysa Lying-in Home, and the Victoria Memorial Eye Hospital at Kandy, Ceylon, Her Excellency Lady Manning presented two silver badges awarded by the Overseas Nursing Association for good service. These were presented to Matron G. Hamilton, of the Eye Hospital, and Nursing Sister E. McCormic, of the General Hospital.

Mrs. Hannah Martin, of the Bevan Nursing Home, Sandgate, Kent, who left £4,413, left the whole of her property, with the exception of small legacies amounting to about £400, to the Victoria Hospital, Folkestone.

"The safety of nations is not a question of the gun alone, but also of the man behind the gun, and he is mainly the resultant of the grit and self-sacrifice of his mother. If we lack noble mothers we lack the first element of racial success and national greatness."

F. Truby King.

OUR POLICY.

We have been asked for advice on the question of whether to register at the present moment, and before stating our policy will first quote a few opinions sent in for publication by several correspondents.

"I do not intend to register until this question of Certificates is settled."

"I have registered, but shall withdraw my name if it is to be entered without my Certificate."

"If they want a list of uncertificated nurses let them have it—only we certificated nurses are not going to pay for it."

Our reply to all well-trained nurses is: register as provided in the Rules, which define that a certificate of not less than three years' training *qualifies* for admission to the Register. Such "registered nurses" will have the right to require that the "Qualification" Column in the First Schedule shall correspond with the Rules for admission to the Register. Nothing is more ineffective than standing out when a forceful public opinion and action is required to support a right policy. The Minister of Health has pointed out by what means the addition of the word "Certificate" can be included in the publication of the Register. What nurses have to do is to convince him that their demands are just, not only in their own interest, but in the interest of the public.

THE REGISTERED NURSES' SOCIETY AND THE RECORD OF CERTIFICATES ON THE STATE REGISTER.

The following letter and Resolution have been forwarded by the Sister-Secretary of the Registered Nurses' Society to the Minister of Health, and a copy of them to the General Nursing Council:—

The Registered Nurses' Society,
431, Oxford Street, W.,
December 1st, 1921.

To the Right Hon. Sir Alfred Mond, Bart, M.P.,
Minister of Health.

SIR,—I beg to enclose a copy of a Resolution passed unanimously at a meeting of the Committee of the Registered Nurses' Society, held on Tuesday, November 29th, and to ask you to be good enough to give it your kind consideration.

Unless the certificates awarded to nurses are recorded on the State Register, my Committee feel that the highly skilled, experienced and certificated nurses on this Staff will be placed in a position which is most detrimental to their interests and to their earning capacity, especially when they have to compete in the open market

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)