

### LEAGUE NEWS.

The Committee of the Victoria and Bournemouth Nurses' League have voted to allow £1 a week for six weeks to members incapacitated by long illness, after they have been members of the League for not less than twelve months. In many cases this will, we feel sure, be a great help to nurses working on the co-operative basis.

The members of the League are eagerly awaiting the announcement (which will reach them this week) that the Rules are signed and the State Register is open. No member of the profession has worked more loyally for this reform for thirty years than Miss Christina Forrest, the President of the V.B.N. League. Miss Forrest, who was then Matron of the York County Hospital, was one of the fourteen nurse signatories to the Royal Charter granted to the Royal British Nurses' Association in 1893.

### THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A Members' Meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses will be held at the "Plane Tree" Tea Rooms, on Monday, July 25th, at 5 p.m., to be followed by a meeting of the Social Club—whist, etc.

As it seems expedient that there should be only one Nurses' Trade Union, a Section for Fever Nurses who are eligible for the State Register has been formed. This Section is entirely separate from the P.U.T.N. proper, but will be affiliated to it and represented on the Council by members who are generally trained and who hold Fever Certificates.

A Midwives' Section has also been formed, to be worked on the same plan.

MAUDE MACCALLUM  
(Hon. Secretary).

### NURSING IN PARLIAMENT.

STEYNING INFIRMARY, BRIGHTON.  
(DISMISSAL OF NURSES).

Mr. T. Griffiths asked the Minister of Health whether it has been brought to his notice that two nurses in the Poor Law Service at Steyning Infirmary, Brighton, having passed their examinations, have been dismissed at a few hours' notice and refused their certificates; whether a member of the committee appointed to inquire into the matter states that he has found the charges made against them to be without foundation; and whether, as the shortage of nurses is so great that it is a matter of public importance that suitable women should not be discouraged from entering the nursing profession, he will hold an inquiry into the matter?

Sir A. Mond: I am informed by the Board of Guardians that they appointed a special committee to inquire into this case, and that the

committee came to the conclusion that the charges made against the nurses had been proved, and that they had been guilty of gross unkindness to a patient and also of insubordination. I am also informed that the Guardians have decided to furnish the nurses with an extract from the minutes of the Board stating that they had passed their examination. In these circumstances I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by my directing a further inquiry into the matter.

### A PLEA FROM A NURSE.

Are nurses losing their sense of loyalty? Loyalty it seems to me is one of the most essential characteristics in any institution which is happily and successfully run—in any institution, whatever its size.

I have just returned to hospital after a year and a half of rest and a change seems to have come—the hospital atmosphere is different.

I find that that keen sense of loyalty which governed our actions and which was apparent even in our "grousings" and "grumbles," is disappearing. Often, I own, we used to criticize Matron and those in control, but always behind was the thought and feeling that she was our Matron and it was our hospital.

Now a certain disrespect seems to have crept in. A nurse refuses to obey, a Sister speaks half-sneeringly about the Assistant Matron, the Matron rebukes a Sister too openly, the probationer criticises the hospital, while the patient listens open-eared.

Little things, perhaps, but all bearing the same way, and all indicating that something is missing which before helped us to work in unity for the welfare of our patients and the honour of our hospital. I think, too, something has crept in from the outside world. We are infected—mildly yet, perhaps—by the same germ which is causing revolts and strikes and Bolshevism.

I know there are many wrongs and ills and many matters which are unfair in our nursing world, but disloyalty will be no cure for them. Much has already been done for us and much more will be done if we show ourselves worthy of the improvements for which much striving is being made.

What is to be done? Is there an antitoxin for disloyalty? What is to be done to subdue the strength of the attack?

Much can be done by every nurse who has the welfare of her profession at heart. Chiefly she must be absolutely loyal herself, and she must let her loyalty so irradiate from her that new arrivals in the nursing world may see her loyalty and adopt it. It naturally follows that only by her strict obedience to her superiors can a nurse expect the same from her own inferiors.

If we want to stop this rock which is rolling down hill to hurt us and spoil us, we must all help. There must be no slackers, even the month-old probationer must help; in this respect, she is as important as her Sister or her Matron.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)