

THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Professional Union of Trained Nurses has received many letters from those who ask for assistance on finding themselves in difficulty. Although anxious to help whenever it is possible, unless a nurse is a member of our Union we have no right to interfere in any dispute between her and her employers.

I am afraid, from letters we receive, that a good many look upon the Professional Union as a sort of Charity Organisation, to which they may apply when troubles arise. Some have asked for monetary help; others request us to give them legal advice, and in some cases even to start a law suit on their behalf, all without wishing to join the Union or pay any subscription towards it.

Might I make it clear that we are only able to act for our members, and that by our Rules, these must have belonged to the Union for at least a year, and have paid their subscriptions up to date, before any money can be disbursed on their account?

We should also like to make it understood that we neither give nor receive charity, but are a self-supporting association, which is paid for, and managed by, its members. It, therefore, behoves nurses to join it before their difficulties begin. Very many, I am afraid, only attempt "to lock the stable door when the steed is stolen," or, in other words, wish to join the Union when they find themselves in need of assistance.

I hope all readers of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will look ahead, and provide protection for themselves before the trouble comes. Join the P.U.T.N., and DO IT NOW!

MAUDE MACCALLUM,
Hon. Secretary.

THE IRISH NURSES' AND MIDWIVES' UNION.

The series of Tea Time Talks for nurses which have been held in the offices of the Irish Nurses' and Midwives' Union on Wednesday afternoons for the past two months, will be discontinued during July and August. They will be resumed in September next, when it is hoped to arrange addresses each week by well-known persons on subjects of special interest to nurses. Members are invited to bring friends to these discussions, so that non-members may be introduced to the Union, and friendly intercourse promoted between members, who will be able on these occasions to discuss the Union's activities.

At a recent Wednesday meeting an interesting discussion took place on the form a registered uniform for nurses should take. Nurses expressed great satisfaction that the uniform which marks their calling in the eyes of the public is at last to be protected from abuse by law. It was decided to ask the General Nursing Council for Ireland to call a Public Conference of Nurses to

discuss this question, as it is one in which all nurses are keenly interested. Preference was expressed by members present for a long coat and hat and storm cap of registered pattern, in grey, with grey or black shoes and grey stockings. A woven armlet and hat band, with the registered badge on it in blue, was suggested. For indoor uniform members agreed that it would be far more hygienic and economical to have a white overall or coat which could be worn over the dress instead of an apron, and left in the ward when the nurse went to meals or off duty. The dress might take the form of a plain coat-frock of washing material, preferably grey also, with turn-down collar, and long sleeves buttoned on above the elbow. These sleeves could be removed in the ward for dressings, &c., and the dress could be made to look quite neat for wear outside the ward.

M. MORTISHED,
Hon. Secretary.

TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

AT A WOMAN'S CLUB.

One Member to Another: "That is Miss Gloriana Skimthecream—a V.A.D. You see she has the R.R.C., the 1914-15 Star, the General Service Medal, and the Victory Medal for Service in France. A remarkably clever girl. No need for her to do four years' drudgery before becoming an expert nurse."

Fellow Member: "My niece qualified after four years' training at Bart's. She joined the T.F.N.S., and worked devotedly on home service in military hospitals throughout the war. *She has nothing to show for it.* No R.R.C., no Star, no Medal, no ribbon. If you ask me I call it a howling scandal. Honours should be awarded for efficiency and merit."

First Speaker: "I fear your niece must be wanting in initiative. If she had put a bit of punch into it, she wouldn't have got left. People should not submit to injustice."

THE SUMMER SALES.

AT MESSRS. GAYLER & POPE'S, LTD.

Wise Matrons of Hospitals, and Superintendents of Nursing Homes, replenish their linen and household stores at Sale-time, thereby, if they deal with well-known and reliable firms, effecting a considerable saving. Such an opportunity is now offered by Messrs. Gayler & Pope, Ltd., High Street, Marylebone, London, W. 1, whose Summer Sale began on June 24th and is continuing for 21 days. The firm make a special study of the needs of nurses and nursing institutions, and reductions of from 2s. to 6s. in the £1 off this Season's prices are offered.

Many bargain-lines in millinery, hosiery, costumes and dress fabrics should also be noted. It is advisable to visit the establishment at an early date, as many of the best bargains are of course secured in the early days of the Sale.

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