

our hospitals and nursing schools; the other presents a very gloomy picture.

Everyone appears surprised that with the limelight turned off the ubiquitous V.A.D.s have vanished, and that after all their protestations of patriotism, drudgery for sick humanity (apart from flitting around our military heroes) was not their objective! We need not regret this, as the type of woman who rushed into "nursing" at the sound of the *reveille*, after neglecting the call of humanity, including sick women and children, before the outbreak of war, was not the type best suited to attain success in a profession which above all things needs sustained effort and forgetfulness of self.

We are pleased to note Miss Grace Gordon advocating the necessity of preliminary training for would-be probationers. We may hope the G.N.C. will push this most indispensable item in its curriculum when fully defined. This Journal has been advocating Central Preliminary Schools of Nursing for the past 25 years, to help groups of hospitals which are not sufficiently large and self-contained to maintain a Preliminary School for themselves.

GOOD NEWS FOR CERTIFICATED NURSES.

In reply to an inquiry at the Ministry of Health, we are officially informed that the Minister of Health has approved and signed the Amended First Schedule to the Rules framed by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, providing that in the Qualifications column of the published Register the Certificate of training shall be recorded, also the dates of obtaining such qualification and the hospital or hospitals in which such qualifying training has been received.

This is good news indeed, and will relieve thousands of highly trained nurses of the deep anxiety they naturally experienced upon learning that a Resolution had been proposed by a member of the General Nursing Council that the documentary evidence of their proficiency, the Certificates awarded to them after systematic training and examination, should be omitted from the State Register.

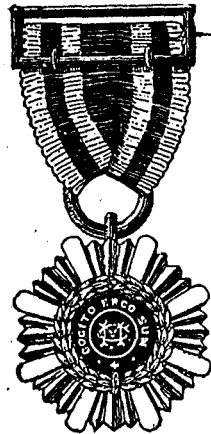
We sincerely congratulate our colleagues upon the result of this most unnecessary controversy, and beg to thank the Minister of Health upon their behalf for his wise and sympathetic decision in the matter. We advise nurses now to look forward and avail themselves of the privilege of State Registration. They will then be in a position to insist upon just professional conditions in the future.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

AT THE LONDON TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL.

(Concluded from page 136.)

THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN OPIUM.



Miss La Motte, speaking on the 28th ult. on the Illicit Traffic in Opium, and her experiences of its results in America, said that they had splendid laws there controlling the sale of drugs; nevertheless, when a report was compiled in 1919 it showed that America had by far the largest number of drug-takers compared with Italy, Germany, and France, a condition due to violation of the law. It was decided in one place to open a clinic for

the treatment of opium addicts. Within two or three hours they had 1,500 people there clamouring like mad. With most of them their dose of morphia was overdue.

It was conclusively proved that the medical profession in America had nothing to do with the drug-forming habit. It was usually contracted when quite young, half of the addicts being under 20 years of age. Its victims were reached by pedlars working in connection with an international ring of drug dealers, which had ramifications in every city. The doses taken by addicts might be 15, 30, 60, 125 grains in the 24 hours. The traffic was a most profitable one. A grain of opium cost about 5 cents, and might be sold for several dollars.

The way in which the habit was frequently established was by the pedlars standing at the gates of factories as the workers came out. At first they gave their victims a pinch of the drug free. The third time they were put in touch with the international ring.

Miss La Motte thought there was no such thing as a certain cure. According to the laws in the United States of America the drug was given to those under treatment in diminishing doses until they got to the irreducible minimum. But then the addicts went elsewhere. Thus it had been ascertained that of patients treated in hospital at Manhattan for three or four weeks, 90 per cent. lapsed within 24 hours of their discharge.

Many cities had narcotic squads to deal with the pedlars, but one captain had said that they could do practically nothing. For one gang that was caught, there were 99 which were not caught.

Discharged patients could not be cured in their own environment, because they were known there. The country was honeycombed with the pedlars of the international ring, and they were tempted every minute.

Many people had never heard of this drug trade, but those who knew of it, and watched the news-

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