

THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE!

The Annual General Meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses will be held at the "Plane Tree," 106, Great Russell Street, W.C.1 (near Y.M.C.A. Central Building), on Friday, March 31st, 1922, at 5.30 p.m. Admission by 1922 Membership card.

At a Council meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses held on March 2nd, 1922, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1. "That the P.U.T.N. begs to inform the Minister of Health that it is strongly opposed to the Instruction agreed to by the General Nursing Council on February 17th and sent to the Registration Committee giving power to the Registrar to deal with applications for membership without scrutiny by Members of the Registration Committee, more especially as the Registered Nurses would be responsible for legal expenses should a nurse have justifiable cause of action at law."

2. "That this Union fearing, in the event of the Minister of Health signing the new Rule by which it will be possible to remove from the various Committees those Members who carried on, as far as possible, the work of the General Nursing Council, in the Public and Nurses' interests during the late crisis, begs the Minister to restore confidence to a large number of Nurses by withholding his signature from the Rule dealing with this matter."

3. "In view of the fact that many Nurses are refusing to apply for State Registration, owing to dissatisfaction with the action of the Council as at present constituted, this Union most earnestly petitions the Minister to dissolve the Council and to allow the Registered Nurses to elect their own representatives."

NURSING IN MENTAL HOSPITALS.

On my way to visit the Kent County Mental Hospital, Maidstone, I took my copy of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING to enjoy in the train. By a strange coincidence, the Editorial was upon the subject of "Nursing in Mental Hospitals."

I must say that it never occurred to me before that those engaged in mental work were, like the Navy, "the Silent Service," doing very essential public work, with neither flags flying nor bands playing, and, as I found out during my visit, doing it in a way that could very well compare with the work done in any General Hospital.

The first thing to surprise me was the absence of noise and discord; I expected to find myself midst "horrid sounds and shrieks and sighs unholy," instead—absolute calm, contentment and happiness; but for the absence of what I may call "autocratic government" and the aspect of some of the patients, I could have believed myself to be in one of London's biggest hospitals.

I had a few bad moments in the evening, when, ascending the stairs with the Matron, we came upon a patient going off to her bed with a cup of hot tea in her hand. I was afraid that such unorthodox refreshment at so late an hour would mean trouble at least for the Sister-in-Charge. To my surprise and relief, the Matron pleasantly said, "Well, Mary, you've got a nice hot drink, that's right!" and Mary replied, "Yes, Matron, it makes me sleep much better," and the incident was closed.

I was taken through the different wards, among others to the one which is relegated to the idiot children, and was told that their little bodies were far too precious to the Nursing Staff to be washed with ordinary soap, but that the Nurses supplied, out of their own pockets, special soaps and shampoos for them. There immediately came to my mind the story of the alabaster box of precious ointment, and the words "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these."

It is a matter of common knowledge that the Heads of Institutions give the tone to the whole place. I fully realised this on making the acquaintance of the Medical Superintendent (Dr. Wolesley Lewis) and the Matron (Miss Macaulay). Their whole ideas were for the happiness of the patients, and their ideals for the raising of the standard of Mental Nursing. With such hospitals as the Kent County, mental nursing ought shortly to come into its own, and be what it undoubtedly should, the blue ribbon of the Nursing Profession. To minister to a body diseased cannot be compared with the privilege of ministering to a mind distressed, and I have no hesitation in saying that eventually the best women will take up mental nursing as the most expert and skilled of all branches of the Profession.

Those who are fortunate enough to get their training in the Kent County will be remarkably lucky girls.

MAUDE MACCALLUM,

Hon. Secretary.

COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD. BIRMINGHAM AND THREE COUNTIES CENTRE.

On Tuesday, February 28th in the lecture theatre of the General Hospital, Birmingham, Dr. Leonard Parsons, M.D., gave the second of his series of lectures on "Diseases of Children."

The lecturer selected for his theme "Causes of Vomiting in Children," and divided his subject into two groups: (1) Unimportant vomiting when there is no loss in weight; (2) important vomiting where there is wasting, constipation, or diarrhoea. From the second group he selected for special mention pyloric stenosis, cyclical or recurrent vomiting, and pyelitis. Pyloric stenosis is caused by an enlargement of the circular muscular coat of the pylorus, resulting in gastritis and diminished size of the pyloric orifice. At birth the child appears normal, and

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