

week. For the Committee it is asserted that their hours did not average more than 48 a week as they had a month's holiday in the year. Some of the strikers locked themselves in their quarters, whilst other officials regarded them from afar through field glasses. On Thursday, April 13th, they received notice to quit, but instead of leaving, locked themselves in the wards with the patients. It took five hours for a large force of bailiffs and police to evict them.

The bailiffs, armed with crowbars, systematically attacked one ward at a time, and encountered fierce opposition, especially in the female wards, where the nurses had to be dragged out. The patients became intensely excited, and in the refractory ward for male patients they sided with the attendants and smashed the windows. One patient bit the hand of the Superintendent of the Police so severely that he had to be medically attended.

We cannot believe that such a condition of things would have occurred had representatives of the Committee of the Asylum and of the Nursing Staff conferred together. Too often highhandedness is the cause of rebellion. We are glad for the honour of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales that those who took part in the recent strike did not have to resort to such extremes.

Preliminary steps were taken for the organisation of a Public Health Nurses' section of the Association of Registered Nurses of the Province of Quebec, when about twenty-five nurses engaged in that phase of work assembled at the offices of the Canadian Nursing Association, 638A, Dorchester Street West. Miss Fraser, of the social welfare workers, presided.

In the discussion which took place it was shown that with the development of various phases of social welfare work by voluntary agencies, such as the Victorian Order of Nurses, the Child Welfare Association, the Royal Edward Institute, the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene, the welfare department of hospitals, departmental stores and industrial plants, and the city health department, the need had arisen for a special section in the nursing professional organisation which would concern itself with their interests.

A provisional committee of three, including Miss Fraser, Miss Matthew, of the Iverley Settlement, and Miss Hall, of the Royal Edward Institute, together with Miss Delaney, superintendent of the V.O.N., was entrusted

with the drafting of a constitution, which will be submitted for adoption at a further meeting, at which the Committee will be elected. The new section will be for the whole of the province.

Many nurses in Victoria are very disappointed and irate in again being "jockeyed" over their Registration Bill last Session. After all sorts of promises it was never debated at all, and Dr. Vance, the President of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, has given offence by publicly stating that he was opposed to the measure, as the Association would maintain a higher standard of training. This may be true at first, but without legal status Victorian nurses are in a helpless position. The Association has done, and is doing, fine work, but it is a private body, and membership of it does not qualify Victorian nurses for reciprocal registration in Britain. Applications for registration in England have to be turned down until such time as a Registration Act is law in Victoria.

NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The Minister of Health gave a written reply in the House of Commons, on April 12th, to the following question:—

MR. R. RICHARDSON (Lab., Houghton-le-Spring) asked the Minister of Health whether he is aware that in the reconstitution of the Standing Committees of the General Nursing Council expert nurses have been taken off and laywomen of title with no knowledge of nursing education, or registration have been elected in their places; and whether he will make representations as to the desirability of replacing upon the Education Committee a representative fever nurse?

SIR A. MOND: The nurse members of the Council seem to me to be fairly represented on the new committees, and I must demur most strongly to the hon. Member's reference to two ladies who have given much time to the work of the Council during the past two years. Of the nurse members who have ceased to serve on the Registration and Education Committees the only one now in active practice represented fever nursing, and I find that this branch of nursing is already represented on both Committees by the Superintendent of an important fever hospital. The appointment of committees is wholly within the discretion of the Council, and I do not propose to adopt the course suggested by the hon. Member.

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