

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

On the occasion of Princess Mary's wedding a grand ball will be held at the Royal Albert Hall in aid of the funds of the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Maida Vale, W. 9.

Next year, in March, 1923, the 800th anniversary of the foundation by Rahere of the Priory and Hospital of St. Bartholomew will occur, and naturally will be an event of the very greatest interest to all connected with hospital work and the treatment of disease; and the governors, treasurer, almoner, the medical and nursing staffs, and friends of the hospital desire that it shall be celebrated in a worthy manner; and are already making preparations to this end. We learn the Nurses' League will be well to the fore. The Lord Mayor will preside at an inaugural meeting at the Mansion House on Thursday, January 26th, at 3 p.m. The Prince of Wales, the President, is giving his cordial approval to this scheme.

The period for which Mr. G. B. Mower White, F.R.C.S., was appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Royal Northern Hospital (formerly the Great Northern Central Hospital) having expired, he has been appointed Emeritus Surgeon, as the Committee of Management and his colleagues on the Staff are most anxious to retain his services in view of his long and valuable association with the Institution. Mr. Mower White has accepted this office. This is the first time such an appointment has been made at the Royal Northern.

## DIFFERENCES OF POLICY IN THE AUSTRALIAN NURSING WORLD.

We quote the following report from the November issue of *Una*, the official organ of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association:—

### NURSES AND ARBITRATION.

A special meeting of the Council of the R.V.T.N.A. was held at the Equitable Building on Thursday, October 13th, to consider the position of Nurses in relation to the Association, which has been registered in the Arbitration Court, and to decide what steps should be taken by the R.V.T.N.A. to protect its members.

The President (Dr. Vance), in giving a report of his interviews with the honorary solicitor, Mr. McCutcheon, said that the position is that a body of persons which calls itself "The Australian Federated Nurses' Association," which originated in Queensland, was organised by a Mr. Partridge, now exists and is registered in the Federal Arbitration Court, thus making it applicable to Nurses in all States.

The solicitor explained that though an award has not yet been made, it is quite likely that such might be applied for at any time, and that as in the case of all such unions, preference would eventually be given to its members for all positions, and even for entry to hospitals as probationers, thereby compelling all in self-

defence to join. It was even possible that the whole course of training might be arranged by them.

The Council felt strongly that it would be wrong to allow a state of affairs to grow which would take the control of their own profession out of the hands of the Nurses themselves, and it was unanimously decided that action should be taken to apply to have this body deregistered so that Nurses may continue to administer their own professional affairs in the manner they think most satisfactory to themselves and their profession.

It was therefore resolved that the solicitor be instructed to proceed with the matter and to engage the necessary counsel in order that the deregistration of the Australian Federated Nurses' Association might be applied for, and the Secretary was instructed to write to both private and public hospitals explaining the position and asking for their support and financial assistance, as the hospitals are equally concerned with the nurses in the matter.

The A.T.N.A. had already had legal advice, and it is felt that it and the R.V.T.N.A. will combine with all hospitals in presenting a strong protest against this body in order that the present status of the Australian Nurse might be maintained.

A member of the Trained Nurses' Guild writes:—

"We are having a very bad time of it. All vested interests are up against the Guild; private and hospital proprietors are furious, warning the Nurses against losing caste and status by joining the Labour Union, as they call us. It is rather interesting to define what status our Nurses possess in Victoria. In fact, some Nurses are told if they remain Guild members the Homes will not allow them to remain on the staff.

"We are having an acute shortage of Nurses, and if the women only realised it, they possess the power of the supply not being equal to the demand. However, they are dropping away from us, whilst the better educated ones are joining up.

"Our Nurses' Bill may come on at any minute now. We know well the old drafted one was not perfect, but we still realise, in the interests of the public, as well as the Profession, we must have registration. We have used all influence to get five nurses on the Board to control the Act; this would prevent sectional influence in the standardising of the training of a nurse. The R.V.T.N.A. will need to spend a good deal of our funds to deregister that Queensland body; whether they fight our application for registration as an Industrial body first, we don't know. In any case, our own accumulated funds will be used against us.

"Will send details as we go along. Hope I shall be able to write our Bill passed."

As at home, we gather that the official hospital halter has been drawn too tight in Australia, with the result that certain free spirits have slipped the noose. This is always the result of a lack of elasticity, and it is a fatal policy in these days of industrial organisation and lack of restraint.

The Nurses' Guild of members of the R.V.T.N.A. have put forward the following objects at a recent meeting:—

- (1) That no medical man be eligible for election to the Council of the R.V.T.N.A.
- (2) That no lady superintendent of training

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