

"It is important to register at once, as the present Council, nominated by the Minister of Health, goes out of office not later than December, 1922, and may be dissolved at any moment, when an election will take place. In the next Council 16 out of 25 members will be Registered Nurses. These will be nominated and elected by the Registered Nurses. It is most necessary that this election should voice the opinion of the majority of trained nurses in the kingdom, and not only a small minority. In order to take part in this important election League Members who have not already done so should register at once. Nurses who fail to register must expect to find themselves at a disadvantage in the near future. Before long, only Registered Nurses will be eligible for important and coveted positions; already some of the Nursing Organisations are accepting Registered Nurses only as members. Under these circumstances it will not be in the interests, or add to the prestige, of our own League to admit or retain those nurses whose names do not appear on the State Register."

Miss M. M. G. Bielby, whose thoughtful articles deeply interest many of our readers, is contributing a series of articles on "The Laws of Health" to the *Dawn of Day*. In her introductory remarks she writes:—"I do not wonder at what people suffer," said Ruskin, 'I only wonder at what they lose.' Those who have enjoyed radiant health, lost it for a time, and then regained it, never hesitate in placing sound health first on the list of the desirable possessions of this life, for without health the physical body truly constitutes a prison-house and, except in rare cases, bodily infirmity clouds the mind.

"There is now a general awakening to the fact that ill-health is the result of the breaking of Nature's laws, either by ourselves or our parents, through self-indulgence or ignorance, which is often wilful. It is not, as so many formerly supposed, a condition imposed on us by God, but is the unalterable effect of causes set in action by man himself. God's Law and Nature's law are the same, and we cannot separate them.

"That health cannot be bought is a false saying which has worked untold harm, for health can be bought, and its price is the denial of self-indulgence."

The Surrey County Nursing Association, at its Annual Meeting, reported that the difficulty of obtaining probationers (for village nursing) continued, "owing to the unwilling-

ness of candidates to bind themselves for practically four years and a half." This is not surprising when we realise that the short, insufficient training and the long service exacted by this lay-governed Association does not qualify the nurses for registration.

The two witnesses to the Scottish marriage of a nurse to an Army officer in the Queen's Hotel, Dundee, on September 12th, 1914, have now been discovered, one in London and the other in Canada.

It will be remembered that this marriage was by declaration, signed by husband and wife, and witnessed by two guests staying in the hotel who heard the principals take one another for husband and wife. The marriage was not registered, and the husband was killed soon afterwards. When the widow decided to establish the marriage legally it transpired that the signed declaration was lost. As a result of the publicity given in the press the witnesses have been found, and the formal action to prove the marriage will be taken shortly.

The Report of the Sixth Annual Meeting of the South African Trained Nurses' Association, held at Port Elizabeth in May, and published in its official organ, *The South African Nursing Record*, is fine reading, and will well repay close study. We have many of the same problems.

A cable was read from Miss J. C. Child, R.R.C., from England at the Opening Meeting amidst applause, announcing that the affiliation of the Association with the International Council of Nurses had been granted at Copenhagen.

The admission of the S.A.T.N.A. leaves only the Commonwealth of Australia outside the International Federation of our great Dominions Overseas. Our Australasian sisters cannot afford to stand aloof, and we cannot afford to be deprived of their sympathy and support.

The *Record* for July, just received, contains a full and interesting account of the affiliation ceremony in Copenhagen, together with the group of delegates with Mrs. Henny Tscherning and Baroness Mannerheim in the centre. It notes also that "Miss J. C. Child has been appointed Overseas President, and so will keep her colleagues in South Africa in touch with the International movement in Europe. Her charming kindness, loyalty and wit make her a most valuable representative and link."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)