

upon Miss Jamme at the Bureau of Registration of Nurses. I found her a most charming woman, with a broad outlook; the Matron of the County Hospital, Los Angeles, Mrs. Muir, kindly arranged an interview for me whilst there, and she told me of the shortened course—two years and four months—as now required by law, the pupils beginning at 18 years. This I thought too young, until she explained to me there are orderlies in all civil hospitals to do the lifting of patients, etc., and they do no house or domestic work, only nursing service. She and other matrons, however, advise the nurses, if possible, to complete the three years' course, to enable them to do the advanced educational course at Berkeley University, which then makes these nurses eligible for Public Health work. Miss Jamme told me that every nurse engaged in preventive work is, more or less, by this advantage a specialist. The nurses of San Francisco have been able to throw off domination by the medical profession, and yet retain their good will and co-operation. To me, from my many efforts in this direction, this was amazing. Miss Jamme gave me much hope. Their pioneers have had the same fights and struggles we have had, and they admit that though the Nurses' Act which came in force in 1914 is by no means perfect, none would willingly go back to the chaos of voluntary registration. Then, when I asked her about the eight-hour day in hospital, and 12 in private, she said the hospital matrons and members of management predicted general ruin, etc., to those institutions if such a drastic reform came into being. However, no such disaster followed, and in fact it is conceded by most now that this change has made for a more contented staff, less sick leave, and better attention and care given to the patient. Any nurse coming from a place where a Nurses' Act is in force, without any reciprocal agreement, providing her certificate is up to the standard required, is registered, and if there is only voluntary registration in the country of training, she has to pass an examination. This latter, she assured me, is mainly a practical test that the nurse is a person who should be in charge of a sick person. Many of our nurses over there asked me to get information relating to the statement that local nurses wished to crowd ours out. She declared most emphatically *No!* They all realise the high educational standard we have been able to maintain, and our nurses are popular with patients and doctors alike; but the nurses would not tolerate our nurses coming in and doing the 24-hour work as they do in Australia. I agree with her no nurse has the right to go to a foreign country and not conform to the same economic standards as set by her colleagues, and gained by much trouble and in the face of opposition from the powers that be.

Once more I am returning to fight for our registration bill. I have not been able to get any nursing news as yet, so I am hoping for details at Suva, Fiji, to-morrow. I am writing on deck, so please excuse all faults. I have written to headquarters of Nursing Education, N. York, at Miss Jamme's suggestion, for all literature that deals with their

Nursing Acts, so by this means I may be able to impress the lay politician, and overcome the *raven-like* ideas of our two medical ones. Registration, according to the two latter, will ruin the hospitals, and do everything that is wrong for our profession, yet it accomplished every good for the medical members as a whole.

It is also interesting to note that the Government has decreed coloured girls, provided that they possess the same educational qualities, viz., High School certificates, shall be permitted to enter any Nurses' Training School. So far, I was told, those who had availed themselves of this opportunity were making good, the tact of the matrons helping to make both races work together as citizens of the one great land. The one great disappointment was my failure to meet Miss L. Dock. She wrote to me a nice letter of welcome. She was so anxious to hear our economic news, and why the R.V.T.N.A. was so opposed to the formation of the Trained Nurses' Guild. She hasn't any idea of the complete domination of the Council by the medical and employer members, as well as lay, on that body. Now that I am no longer a member, the private nurses' interests are being looked after by three private hospital owners, as well as those nurses, who possess no backbone to fight the others. Naturally I felt my severance very much after my long association, but now I feel I came out solely upon behalf of the private and welfare nurses. It might have been possible for me to remain if I could sit upon a rail, but I possess a direct Celtic temperament, and so must either be for or against. Perhaps my resignation may yield good results, as I am told it has, in letting some publicity in upon the R.V.T.N.A. methods to help the nurses.

August 10th.—I got my mail at Suva, and was pleased to know that Mr. Justice Bowers could see no reason why he should alter the decision of the Registrar, and so the Guild remains a registered industrial body. The executive members are nominating new people for the Council of the R.V.T.N.A. I shall arrive in time for some of the fight and the annual meeting. I hear the general public hasn't much sympathy for the R.V.T.N.A. in their opposition to the registration. It appears they cannot appeal to a higher court until the Guild applies for an award. Personally I would prefer to see a conference called of all *interested* bodies, and get an amiable acceptance of fair economic conditions for the nurses.

August 12th.—We expect to reach Melbourne on the 16th.

20th.—We arrived in Melbourne quite safely, and I am up to my eyes in getting my rooms fixed up. I had to attend to some patients straight away. There is a great deal of work waiting for me. There will be a bitter fight for R.V.T.N.A. elections.

With kindest remembrances, and may your continued struggle for just professional conditions in England meet with the success which you deserve to win.

GRETTE LYONS.

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