

We have all read about the terrible earthquake and tidal waves on the coast of Chile for hundreds of miles, and many old friends were anxious as to the fate of "our" Miss Mollett and her sister Lina, living at Copiapo, in the very heart of the upheaval. In reply to a cable, news has come through that Miss Mollett is safe and unhurt, but that Lina has been very seriously injured. This is very sad news, and we can but hope for a better report when letters arrive. No experience can be more awe-inspiring and shattering than to live through such an event, and our instinct would be to take the first boat which would remove us from this volcanic vicinity.

A correspondent sends the following cutting from the *Times*:—

"'V.A.D.' wanted immediately for theatre work in Nursing Home. Apply, giving full particulars, to Matron, —."

The employment of V.A.D.'s in Private Nursing Homes is an ever-increasing abuse. The patients pay for highly skilled nursing, and indeed their lives may depend upon it, and unskilled nursing is provided.

Again we ask what is the loudly advertised College of Nursing, Ltd., doing to prevent this abuse. What can they do so long as their Chairman is Chairman of the British Red Cross Committee, which breeds V.A.D.'s by the thousand, and which during the war permitted them such dangerous responsibility for our sick and wounded? In this connection certificated Private Nurses suffer great damage, as it is not only in Nursing Homes these untrained women filch their work from them. Doctors are in many instances satisfied to permit V.A.D.'s, elevated to a sort of pseudo-professional status by the adoption of nurses' uniform, to act as sick attendants, and, of course—and we cannot complain of this—members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and of the Territorial Nursing Service, having been compelled to instruct V.A.D.'s in their professional duties during the war, they are now quite qualified to undertake chronic and "attendant" home nursing.

This is a far-reaching economic question as far as Registered Nurses are concerned, as it means a serious loss of independent Private practice.

And how about the ignorance of the Education Committee of the G.N.C. so far as Private Nursing is concerned? It actually sent up a recommendation a few weeks ago to recognise as a training school for nurses a Poor Law

Institution, the probationers of which gained their surgical experience during a six months' service in a Nursing Home at York! And had not Mrs. Bedford Fenwick exposed this unjustifiable proposal, which cuts at the very root of just dealing with patients who pay highly for skilled nursing, and not to be handled as "experience" for Poor Law probationers, it is quite possible the acceptance of the Education Committee's recommendation would have been agreed to by a subservient majority of the Council and a most dangerous precedent established, encouraging persons who run Nursing Homes for profit to do so on the cheap, irrespective of the safety of the patient or the prestige of Private Nursing.

This reminds us that the candidate put up by the College of Nursing, Ltd.—who does not hold a certificate from a training school—to represent the large body of highly trained Private Nurses throughout England and Wales on the General Nursing Council, assumes a very hoity-toity attitude in the pseudo-nursing press towards her constituents. If this lady so plainly proclaims her contempt for professional opinion in the "green tree," what (if elected) will it be in the "dry"?

We hear from many Private Nurses that it will result in "No more retention fees from me!"

We advise these nurses to avert any such contingency by voting for Miss Alice Cattell, the highly qualified certificated Independent Private Nursing Candidate, who, as a member of the General Nursing Council, has worked faithfully for the rights of the rank and file of the profession in co-operation with the dauntless minority.

Nurses trained at the Hackney came from many quarters to attend Miss Griffith, the Matron, at her "Silver Jubilee." Mr. Mason, the Chairman of the Board, handed her their Presentation Gift.

A very interesting little ceremony was recently performed at Townsend Place, Kirkcaldy, where, in the presence of a large gathering, Sir Michael Nairn, Bart., Dysart House, handed over as a free gift to the Association a small furnished villa, to be used as the headquarters of the Association and the residence of Miss Watt.

In accepting the gift Lady Novar paid tribute to the many good works done by the Nairn family for Kirkcaldy.

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