

The Professional Classes Aid Council, 251, Brompton Road, S.W.3, which did good work during the war, and, it will be remembered, organised two maternity homes for the professional classes, is now compelled, owing to lack of funds, to refuse applications for assistance with the education of children, grants in illness and convalescence, and other forms of help. Donations to help fellow professional men and women in their need will be very welcome.

The eighth annual garden party of the Isleworth Nurses' League will be held in the Hospital Grounds on July 1st, at 3 p.m., when the Matron will be delighted to welcome all the old nurses, who, no doubt, will be delighted to attend.

Sheffield Queen Victoria District Nursing Association has just held its house-to-house collection of funds. Last year £800 was given, and it is hoped this year's collection may amount to £1,000. A penny per head of the population would give a total much in excess of that. There is urgent need for four additional nurses, but it is impossible to appoint them for lack of funds.

The nurse who is reported to have gone through a "Scotch" marriage with a young officer at the Queen's Hotel, Dundee, in 1914, before two witnesses of whom she knew nothing, and now that she is a widow wishes to prove the validity of the contract, is naturally finding difficulty in doing so. Marriage is too serious a matter to be treated in this irresponsible manner. We doubt if those witnesses are likely to turn up.

We are glad to note that at last nurses in Australia appear to be waking up to the necessity for State Registration. For years they have had a voluntary system, practically controlled by doctors, and it is not up-to-date. The hours in public and private hospitals are too long, and a great spirit of unrest is the consequence. The training schools in Australia, as at home, have for many years opposed a State-controlled system; and even now we have got it, it will take Registered Nurses years to attain to the honourable position of a self-governed profession such as men's professions are. We have at present with us all the incurable and chronic "antis" who have no faith in, or sympathy for, an independent nursing profession. But, praise be, they will die out in a few decades, and we shall then have a chance to breathe and grow, if we firmly refuse to submit to mid-Victorian

ideas and methods, which are still quite *de rigueur* where nurses are concerned.

The American Nurses' Association is holding its bi-annual Convention at Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., this week. A most comprehensive programme will be discussed, and nurses are attending from all over the States and from Canada. Would that we could have accepted the cordial invitation received.

The sad death occurred recently at the General Hospital, Jersey, of a probationary nurse, Miss Lily Emily Wood, who threw herself out of a window and died from the injuries sustained. She had only arrived at the hospital on June 7th, and the Acting Matron came to the conclusion that she was on the verge of a breakdown, though she did not think she needed watching. It was decided to send her home with an escort. The night report on the night before her death showed that she was restless, and did not sleep though she had had a sleeping draught.

Dr. Farmer, at the inquest, stated that they might have put a nurse in charge of her, but they were up against the shortage of nurses. The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst of unsound mind," and regretted that the conditions which obtain at the hospital did not permit of giving effect to the necessities of the case, as shown in the night report.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Report of the National Union of Trained Nurses (38, Parliament Street, Whitehall, S.W.1), 1921-1922, just issued, of which Miss H. L. Pearse is President, shows that its activities have been well maintained, and the Hon. Treasurer is able to show a balance in hand of £99 9s. 7d. at the end of the financial year, and she also reports that the invested stock has improved in value. The work of the General Nursing Council has been closely watched, and action taken in regard to proposals inimical to the nurses' interests. The report states "it is only by constant and careful watching that nurses' interests can be safeguarded."

The following Resolution has been sent to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

TO MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

At the Annual Council Meeting held recently, the situation arising on the General Nursing Council was discussed at length, and it was unanimously agreed to send the following resolution to you:—

"That the Council of the National Union of Trained Nurses wishes to express to you its cordial appreciation of your attitude, and to assure you of its sympathy in regard to the unfair treatment you have received on the General Nursing Council, and in this resolution would associate with you those members who stood by you in your fight for justice and right."

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