

the urban districts of Greasley, Hucknall, and Warsop, which places could earn a lot of money. That would account for £440 5s., and the remainder she suggested should be divided in the form of a grant of £80 towards the county superintendent's salary, £10 towards the lecture week for Midland Counties nurses, and the remaining £15 15s. be kept for the Federation administrative expenses.

The proposal was approved.

The Secretary further reported that there had been a number of inquiries as to the possibility of forming new associations, but the difficulty was the shortage of nurses. Despite the fact that the Federation offered free training and other advantages to all young women willing to take up midwifery and district nursing, there were not nearly enough coming forward at the present time to keep them going. No doubt young women are beginning to realise that the training given does not qualify for the Nurses' Register.

At the Leicester District Nurses' Meeting the other day, it was suggested that the funds would be greatly helped if the nurses were provided with free passes on the trams, enabling them to get about the city on their errands of mercy, as transport had cost £86 last year.

Upon inquiry it was stated by a member of the Tramways Committee that it had been tried during the war, and the concession was abused. Some of the nurses used the passes at times when they were not on duty, and the permission to ride free had to be withdrawn. The Tramways Committee report that last year 200 free passes were issued to the blind, 117 to the crippled, and 60 disabled soldiers, so that it is a great pity that the district nurses were not more punctilious in observing the privilege generously conceded.

The good work of American Visiting Nurses in the devastated districts in France still progresses. Miss Walker has returned from her visit to America, and at a meeting of nurses she gave an account of her stay in America which greatly encouraged her staff. She impressed them with the very real interest in the States for Nursing questions in France. There was much enthusiasm when she reported that General Ireland had promised to release Major Julia Stimson, the Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps, U.S.A., to organise the Nurses' Training School in Paris. A motion was made that a letter of appreciation be sent to the General, which should be signed by all the French Nurses of the Committee.

Many of the "internationalists" had the pleasure of meeting and entertaining Miss Julia Stimson, when in Europe during the war, and before the American Army Nurses had attained Rank. We formed a high opinion of her strong and bracing personality, and wish her all the success possible when she enters upon this splendid new phase of international nursing work, for which she is so eminently well fitted. Alas! that England these days lags behind in prospecting and pioneering for the welfare of the sick. In France, Central Europe, the Near East, the same sad lack of vim! We are out of it everywhere, when we used to be first in the field.

Surely it is time we took the lesson to heart. The American Nursing World is organised through self-government, hence this sense of professional responsibility. In America the National Association of Nurses, League of Nursing Education, Public Health Nursing, Nursing Press, and Benevolent Schemes are all entirely managed by the nurses themselves. No patronage—so demoralising and degrading to any profession—is accepted for a moment. The members of the Army and Navy Nurse Corps have Rank, and the Department of Nursing, American Red Cross, has a professional Director, and a professional Staff. Scope and encouragement, therefore, are given to the creative faculty, with the result that whilst we are penalised for evidence of intelligence and self-expression, a policy against which only the strongest can stand upright, our American colleagues go ahead of us every time, and deserve to do so.

Nursing is to be discussed at the International Red Cross Meeting in Paris next week, of which Miss Olmsted is Directress. Baroness Mannerheim, President of the International Council of Nurses, spends two days in London at St. Thomas' Hospital, her old training school, on her way to Paris to attend the Red Cross Conference. We are beginning to look forward to "Finland" in 1925, where self-governing Nurses' National Organisations will foregather.

#### THE ST. BARNABAS HOSTELS.

Princess Christian and Princess Helena Victoria have given their patronage to a concert which is to be held on Friday, March 16th, at 3 p.m., at 11, Carlton House Terrace (lent by Mrs. Benjamin Guinness), in aid of the St. Barnabas Hostels, France, established and maintained by voluntary contributions for those of slender means who wish to visit the graves of relatives fallen in the war.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)