

the English people fed them," the man sprang forward—"Alive!" he shouted, "all alive! I thought they would all be dead!" And he flung himself on the ground weeping like a baby for pure joy.

Then they drove on and broke the news to his wife, who fainted into a neighbour's arms. "We left all our lunch at the house so that they could have a little feast when he arrived."

Miss Payne relates that some of the bully beef given by the British Government dated from the time of the Boer War. It was quite dangerous to go near it as it blew up.

"Don't believe any lies you hear about the children being brought up in immoral ways. We have over 15,000 children in our famine areas," writes the author, "and I have never heard of, or come across, one single case."

Miss Payne tells of a musical evening to which she was invited by the Communists. "They all sang in turn. . . . They asked me to sing something, but of course I refused. However, as they were very pressing, I said, 'All right,' but added 'You won't like it,' and I stood up and sang them 'God save the King!'"

"Loud applause, and I was not shot at dawn."

Read the most amusing account of the farewell supper of bully beef, which there is not space to quote.

In the course of the book Miss Payne writes: "Denmark, Sweden, Czecho-Slovakia and Belgium are all helping with the famine. The French are sending a Red Cross unit.

"Why does not England send a Red Cross unit?"

"If we could only have amalgamated the famine relief with medical assistance, what thousands more lives might have been saved!"

The book concludes with the words: "I return home to collect the Nurses' Unit for Russia. May the funds be forthcoming." M. B.

A SONG.

Now I am on the earth,
 What sweet things love me?
 Summer, that gave me birth,
 And glows on still above me;
 The bird I loved a little while;
 The rose I planted;
 The woman in whose golden smile
 Life seems enchanted.

Now I am in the grave,
 What sweet things mourn me?
 Summer, that all joys gave,
 Whence death, alas! hath torn me;
 One bird that sang to me; one rose
 Whose beauty moved me;
 One changeless woman; yea, all those
 That living loved me.

From "Poems," by Arthur O'Shaughnessy.

The Committee of the King's Home for Nurses, Lower Clapton Road, is appealing for £2,000 to put the freehold in trim and proper order.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The devil has an uncommon way of getting round the best-intentioned legislation.—*The Archbishop of York.*

The General Nursing Council meets on the 21st inst. In its short term of office it has done as much injury to our Profession as time permitted. Suppression of professional aspirations is its determined policy, and it adds insult to injury that we should have to pay through the nose for its folly.

THE RETENTION FEE.

The demand by the Registrar for a second 2s. 6d. Retention Fee from Registered Nurses—whose names have not yet appeared on any published Register—is causing much discussion amongst trained registered nurses. The common determination appears to be not to pay a second fee until the Statutory Rules have been complied with by the Council and, according to Rule 5 (r), their names have been included in the published Register.

So far only the names of those 7,000 nurses have appeared who were registered up to July, 1922. Those registered up to December, 1922, were due to be published in January, 1923, but so far this edition of the Register has not appeared and is thus nine months overdue. The 7,000 nurses whose names have been published have been called upon for 2s. 6d. for 1923, and the recent whip is, we learn, for 1924 (due next January), and under protest have no doubt complied with the Rule.

These nurses, who have been registered for a year or more, and whose names have so far not been published, are naturally indignant at the mismanagement of their affairs by the Council and Registrar, and it is many of these nurses who are ready to contest the demand for Retention fees until the law has been conformed to, and their names have been published. The Ministry of Health is primarily to blame for failing to compel the General Nursing Council to carry out the responsible duties—in more than this particular instance—entrusted to it by Parliament.

In this connection it is of interest to know what is the opinion of New Zealand nurses, with whom we have reciprocity of registration under the Statutory standards, before they were recently degraded upon the initiative of the College of Nursing, Ltd., with the help of Dr. Chapple, M.P. We quote the following opinion from *Kai Tiaki*, the official organ of the New Zealand Trained Nurses' Association:—

REGISTRATION OF NURSES AT HOME.

There appears to be some misunderstanding in regard to the duration of the registration of a nurse, and in a recent nursing paper we see that the General Nursing Council of England and Wales is to obtain legal opinion "as to whether a nurse whose name has been removed from the register because she has not paid her annual subscription can call herself a registered nurse."

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