

Miss V. Roberts, in a letter to the *Irish Times*, explains to nurses how they stand at present with regard to jury service. Resolutions asking for exemption on the same grounds as those of the medical profession have been passed by practically every nursing association in the Free State. These were kindly taken charge of by Sir James Craig, M.D., and were brought by him before the proper authorities in the Dail, who have promised legislation on the subject. Meantime, nurses in the City of Dublin, through the courtesy of the revising barrister, were granted provisional exemption two years ago if they were working nurses, and this still holds good, but nurses living in the country were refused the same privilege, except in the case of those paid out of the public rates. Retired nurses must still serve at present.

We offer cordial congratulations to Miss M. Aeschmann, one of the International Students at Bedford College, London, trained in the Bordeaux Nursing School, who headed the list in the final examination, though she had to compete with English and Canadian nurses.

As reported in the *Alumnae Magazine* of the John Hopkins Hospital Nurses, Baltimore, in an address by Miss Nutting on "The Evolution of Nursing from the Hospital to the University," given at the Semi-Centennial in New Haven of the Connecticut School of Nurses, she stated that this evolution had not really come about and that there is little likelihood of a real evolution for many years to come, inasmuch as less than one per cent. of our schools of nursing has any university connection. Furthermore, many hospitals are still utilising their students for the benefit of the hospital, as shown by the large number of institutions that still adhere to the nine-hour day and the twelve-hour night. For purposes of discussion Miss Nutting divided the fifty years of nursing in this country into three fairly well defined periods of from fifteen to eighteen years each. The first period was one of pure service from which the hospitals benefited enormously. The second, Miss Nutting called the period of association, this having been the period in which nurses came to appreciate their interdependence and organised the American Nurses' Association and launched our professional magazine, the *Journal*. The present period was described as one of genuine educational and professional advance, having tremendous potentialities for further development.

HOW THE COLLEGE CAUCUS CAPTURED THE COUNCIL.

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We must now revert to the year 1915 during which the nursing world was naturally absorbed in the demands made upon it during the Great War, and schemes and work for its internal organisation were in abeyance. Nevertheless, never was the need for professional organisation more apparent. Everything was in a most unsettled state, and trained nurses recognised increasingly the necessity for legal status granted to them under the laws of the Realm, for which they had been petitioning Parliament for the past eleven years. Without it everything went into the smelting-pot. Training, knowledge, and experience were apparently at a discount; hundreds of hospitals were started by ladies of social influence who not only adopted the trained nurses' uniform, but actually assumed the rôle of Matron, and in not a few instances endeavoured to dominate not only over trained nurses, but also over members of the medical profession. Social functions were at a standstill and hundreds of young society girls rushed into hospitals at home and abroad, and apparently those with youth and charm were considered quite competent to assume nursing duties involving serious responsibilities in regard to life and death in connection with sick and wounded soldiers.

Had the trained nurses had the legal status which the doctors enjoyed, the V.A.D. ramp could not have been so injurious to the welfare of the sick and wounded as it was in thousands of cases—studiously kept from the public—but even members of the Military Nursing Service had no rank.

So much for the general chaotic condition in 1914, when, had not the managers of training schools, through social influence and a venal Press, been able to deny to the nursing profession rights which have now been granted to them under the Nurses' Registration Acts, a very much more efficient Nursing Service would have been at the disposal of the world on the outbreak of war. Had it not been for the fine organisation of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, the purpose of which was mobilisation in case of invasion only, but which responded splendidly when called up on the great national emergency, there must have been a disastrous *détâcle*, for the Military Nursing Service was a mere drop in the ocean when it came to dealing with the needs occasioned by the world's war.

On December 30th, 1915, the Honble. Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, electrified the nursing world by issuing a letter from 83, Pall Mall, S.W., as Chairman of the Joint War Committee, addressed to the Chairmen of Hospitals, with the object of securing the support and sympathy of "the Governors of Hospitals to which Nurse Training Schools are attached, of the leading members of the Medical Profession, of the Matrons and Lecturers at these Nurse Training Schools, and last, but not least, of the Trained Nurses themselves," for the foundation of a College

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