

those things which are purely material. The human heart hungers for sympathy now as it ever has done; the human body is as sensitive to pain and to suffering to-day as it was in those far-off years. To satisfy that craving for sympathy, to alleviate suffering and soothe distress, to carry the true ministry of nursing care into our modern homes, be they those of the more well-to-do or of the very poor, demands self-effacement, a self-discipline and a concentration of high purpose which only those can possess who, to use Miss Dock's words, are 'socially inspired and scientifically trained' and, might we not add to that, divinely guided."

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

A meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain will be held at 431, Oxford Street, on Saturday, June 27th, at 4.30 p.m., when the delegates of Leagues and Societies affiliated to our National Council will have the opportunity of conferring with the Official Delegates of the Council who leave for the meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Helsingfors on July 11th. It is hoped that all the delegates will make every effort to be present. The occasion is one of much importance.

NURSES AT THE LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL.

A CHRISTLIKE WORK.

"Welcome to our Cathedral, fellow-workers with ourselves" was the hearty greeting from Archdeacon Howson to a gathering of nurses, representing various institutions in Liverpool, on Sunday, May 17th, 1925.

The Archdeacon said he rejoiced to see such a large gathering of nurses, who were witnesses for Jesus Christ among the sick and suffering. The aim and purpose of their service was most significant. It was, in the first place, a service of memory of Jesus Christ, whom they could never forget, and they were also reminded of Florence Nightingale, whose great work in St. Thomas's Hospital, London, had left its impress upon the pages of history and upon the hearts and minds of all who had either seen her or read of her heroic work. Agnes Jones, as Lady Superintendent at Brownlow Hill Infirmary, gave years of devoted labour revolutionising the condition of the Nursing of the Sick Poor in 1864 and subsequent years. Of her and others who had adorned the profession they were thinking in grateful memory that day. It was not so much what they did to alleviate human suffering which impressed itself upon the sufferer, but it was their bearing and love which appealed most strongly. A nurse had not much time to kneel and pray, but in any attitude their prayers would reach the heart of God, who was taking account of their work.

The Minister of Health has appointed Mr. Howell E. James, Senior Assistant Secretary, Welsh Board of Health, to be Secretary of the Board in succession to Mr. Percy E. Watkins, who has been appointed Permanent Secretary of the Welsh Department of the Board of Education.

NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MAY 7TH.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

MAJOR BARNETT asked the Minister of Health whether the General Nursing Council for England and Wales has yet submitted for his approval rules providing adequately for the direct representation of registered nurses on the Council, and the prescribed scheme of training required by the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919; and, if not, whether he will consider the desirability of appointing a Select Committee to deal with these matters.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: The General Nursing Council have submitted a revised scheme for the election of nurse members and rules governing the training of candidates for admission to the Register. In accordance with the promise given by my predecessor, I am prepared to recommend the appointment of a Select Committee to examine the election scheme and to report upon the desirability of making the adoption of the Council's Syllabus of Training compulsory.

MAY 21ST.

WEST MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL, ISLEWORTH.

DISMISSAL OF NURSE.

MR. R. RICHARDSON asked the Minister of Health if he is aware that a probationer nurse has recently been dismissed, without her certificate, from the West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth, by the Board of Guardians, after two years and eight months' service, because she complained to the matron of being bullied by a sister in whose ward she was working; that there has been unrest among the nursing staff in this hospital for some time past; and that a nurse won an action in the High Court of Justice for wrongful dismissal against the Brentford Board of Guardians in April, 1923; and whether he will have an inquiry held as to the recent dismissal at which the nurse will be permitted to state her case?

MR. N. CHAMBERLAIN: I am aware that the guardians of the Brentford Union have recently had occasion to dismiss a probationer nurse, though not on the grounds suggested in the question, and of the case referred to in the third part of the question. I am not aware of any general unrest among the nursing staff of this hospital. The action taken by the guardians does not require any sanction or approval on my part, and I do not think this is a case for an inquiry such as the hon. Member suggests.

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

The Second Reading of the Bill for the Registration and Inspection of Nursing Homes introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Gerald Hurst, K.C., M.P., on behalf of the College of Nursing, Ltd., has not yet been reached. As a private member's Bill it can only be discussed on a Friday afternoon, and its place hitherto among such Bills has precluded its discussion.

Meanwhile there is a growing opposition to it on the part of the medical profession.

Our own opposition to it is that it is a futile measure, and unless a standard of nursing is defined, which all proprietors of such Homes are required to maintain, it is worse than useless.

That the Registration of Nursing Homes is needed, few will deny, the public have a right to protection when they pay for skilled care. But unless that is the basis of the Bill, we had much better have none at all.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)