

occasion of the opening by the Princess Mary of the Nurses' Hostel, as shown in a photo taken on that occasion. Trained Nurses consider themselves sufficiently injured in that semi-trained women are permitted to take away from them their livelihood, without being allowed to represent them on public occasions."

LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Annual Meeting of the Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League was held in the Nurses' Home on Friday, June 13th. The President, Miss Vincent, R.R.C., was in the Chair. Those present included Miss Rogers, Misses Sherlock and Pell Smith, Mesdames Moss, Owen (Francis), and Woodroffe. Misses Holroyde (returned from Cawnpore), Marriott, I. German, Torn, Cartwright, Hyley Cameron, Steens, &c. The President welcomed all the members very heartily, and said it was too hot for a speech, but she must say how very glad every one was to have Miss Rogers present. She reported the death of three members during the past year. Mrs. Cutell, whom many would remember as Nurse Hunter, died in very sad circumstances last October. Miss Gertrude Taylor, who had nursed at the 5th Northern General Hospital all through the War, died early this year; and Miss Ethel Petty, a Missionary Nurse, who died at St. Stephen's, Delhi, in April after a long illness. Letters of apology were read from several members, and a message of thanks to Miss Braye for all the work she had done as Hon. Treasurer was passed with acclamation. Misses Bladbury, Clarke, Hart and D. Young were elected to the vacancies on the Council. As no member could arrange to attend the International Congress of Nurses at Helsingfors, a donation of £2 was granted towards the expenses of an official delegate from the National Council of Trained Nurses. The Business Meeting was followed by tea and talk in the Nurses' sitting-room and visits round the Hospital.

THE IRISH NURSES' UNION.

A deputation from the Irish Nurses' Union, 29, South Anne Street, Dublin, waited on June 7th, on Dr. Russell, Medical Officer of Health, in the Public Health Offices, with reference to the enforcement of the provisions of the Midwives' Act of 1918 against untrained "handywomen" practising as midwives in the city. Dr. Russell received the deputation most sympathetically, and promised that wherever one of these women was caught practising in future against the provisions of the Act she would be prosecuted.

The Inspector, Mrs. Brady, stated that so far as she was aware, no "handywomen" now practised, except with the students from the Coombe and Rotunda Hospitals.

Dr. Russell said that this question of the "covering" of handywomen by students was extremely complicated, but agreed that something would have to be done to enforce the law, which stated that no woman uncertified under the Act might practise midwifery except under the direction of a registered medical practitioner. He agreed to approach the Maternity Hospitals with a view to coming to some arrangement whereby the students would not allow the presence of "handywomen" on cases they attend in future.

The Union is also in communication with the Coombe Hospital Board on this matter, and has furnished the Local Government Department and various County Councils with lists of untrained women practising at present, urging that action should be taken against them.

The Union is preparing amendments to the Midwives' Act to be brought before the Government with a view to making it more effective. One of these is to provide for a registered uniform and badge for midwives, which is greatly needed in Ireland.

A deputation from the Irish Nurses' Union, of 29, South Anne Street, waited, on June 25th, upon the Central Midwives' Board for Ireland, to urge the adoption of a registered uniform and badge for midwives, so that nurse-maids and untrained women could no longer usurp the nurses' uniform. It was pointed out that chemists would sometimes readily supply drugs to women in a nurse's uniform, and sometimes refuse them to a registered midwife who was not in uniform. The Chairman, Sir E. Coey-Biggar, explained that there was no provision in the Midwives' Act for the adoption of uniform or badge, but the Board were in full sympathy with the proposal, and had already, in response to the Union's previous requests, approached the Government with a view to getting the necessary legislation. They understood the matter was receiving the attention of the Ministry, and the Union might rest assured the Board would adopt a uniform and badge as soon as possible. The lady members had already been asked to go into the matter in detail, and would be glad to receive any suggestions from the midwives.

The question of "handywomen," untrained women attending midwifery cases, was then discussed. The Union's deputation asked that Sec. 1 (2) of the Act, which prohibits any untrained woman from attending a midwifery case except under the direction of a registered medical practitioner, be enforced by the Board. It was pointed out that the Dental Board had already prosecuted "quack" dentists, and cases where two lives were at stake, were more important. The Chairman gave it as his opinion that the local supervising authorities (*i.e.*, the County Councils) were to blame for not carrying out the Act, the Board had asked the L.G.D. to remind them of their duties in this respect. They agreed to consider the Union's suggestion as to publicity of the illegality of the practices of "handywomen." The question of students from the Maternity Hospitals working with these women would also be considered. The Board thought that the new rules adopted whereby, in future, candidate midwives would be required to attend a larger number of cases, might help to solve that problem, as they might go out with the students. They thought the Union should approach the Maternity Hospitals, which the Secretary said was already being done in one case.

The deputation, after thanking the Board for their sympathetic hearing, then withdrew.

K. N. PRICE, Secretary.

THE GERMAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

At its annual meeting on May 14th, 1925, the Grand Council of the German Nurses' Association, passed the following resolution, which has been sent to the National Associations of Nurses affiliated in the International Council:—

Resolution.

"Until the German name be cleared from the unjust reproach of sole or principal war guilt, the German Nurses' Association is not in a position to have itself officially represented by delegates at international meetings.

"Generaloberin Agnes Karll will not take part in the meeting at Helsingfors as representing the German Nurses' Association, but in her character of honorary president of the International Council of Nurses.

"We request that this resolution may be made known to the affiliated National Councils."

Signed by 27 Matrons.

Members of the Executive Committee.

Presidents of Branches.

Matrons of Hospitals connected with Training Schools.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)