

WAGES AND HOURS BILL FOR NURSES.

The Nursing Profession was hoping that when Mr. Fenner Brockway was not returned to Parliament at the last election, that they would have a respite from Trades Union interference with their professional conditions; but apparently this is not to be. Mr. Brockway's Wages and Hours Bill for Nurses has now been taken in hand by another Labour Member, and although it has not at present any chance of promotion, it has been, we believe, referred for consideration to the Committee of Medical Members of the House. No doubt when it has been submitted to all and sundry the members of the profession concerned may be permitted to read it!

We advise our colleagues to procure a copy of this Bill at once, and if it contains the same disastrous proposals as the former Bill to organise active opposition without delay.

A NURSES' TRADE UNION.

As we go to press we have received the following Appeal to Nurses with the Compliments of Herbert Tracy, Publicity Officer of the Trades' Union Congress General Council—an organisation which presumably has never heard of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain—which has a subscribing membership of upwards of 30,000 trained women nurses, and is linked up with the International Council of Nurses in every quarter of the globe.

AN APPEAL TO NURSES.

FROM THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS GENERAL COUNCIL.

"Following the *Lancet* Commission of Inquiry and the exposures of nursing conditions contained in the Report of that body, considerable dissatisfaction had been expressed by all sections of nurses at the lack of professional organisation and facilities for mutual assistance.

"The Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union, with the approval of the Trades Union Congress General Council, and with the support of large numbers of nurses, male and female, engaged in district nursing, private nursing and other special branches of the profession, offers its services for the purpose of initiating a professional organisation on Trade Union lines.

"Our ultimate objective is that of a self-governing federation of all sections of the nursing profession. We shall endeavour to raise still higher the status of nursing; we will strive to secure economic freedom for all engaged in the profession and greater security of tenure for those engaged in district nursing; we shall try to protect nurses from the exploitation now so common; we shall seek to secure statutory provision for nurses in sickness and old age, and to provide machinery that will enable nurses to take part in the development and government of the profession to which they have dedicated themselves. We shall do nothing detrimental to the dignity of nursing, but shall do everything which the collective wisdom of nurses themselves deems to be desirable for the greater efficiency of the profession and for the best interests of those engaged therein."

The Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union is largely composed of male Mental Nurses organised for economic rather than professional purposes, and their principles and policy are not applicable to highly trained general Registered Women Nurses, who now have powerful organisations through which they can express their opinions and needs, and who stand for professional ethical standards rather than "trade" demands in their relations to the body politic.

THE PRESCRIBED SCHEME OF TRAINING.

With everyone nibbling at Nursing it is high time the General Nursing Council for England and Wales considered and issued the prescribed Scheme of Training which it is empowered to do under the Nurses' Registration Act. Indeed, had it performed its duty in the past in this connection, we should hear less of the schemes for the education and government of Nurses by unauthorised persons.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

Leeds City Council have unanimously decided to confer the freedom of the city on the Princess Royal (Countess of Harewood).

The Lord Mayor said she would be the first woman to receive the freedom of that city.

The honour was in recognition of the active support she had extended to the charitable, social and educational activities of the citizens.

The Ada Cole Memorial Stables for old horses have been formally opened by the Duchess of Hamilton at South Mimms, near St. Albans. The stables which will accommodate 11 horses, were built as a memorial to the founder of the International League against the export of horses for butchery, the object of the league being to secure horses which on account of size or condition run the risk of being exported alive. The Duchess of Hamilton strongly advocated the protection of animals being in the curriculum of every school in the world.

The triple-screw turbine steamer *Engadine* makes daily non-stop cruises from the Thames to the sea. The object of the cruises is to provide an opportunity for inspecting the historic waterway under conditions of comfort which have previously only been available on long pleasure cruises. A delightful way of taking rest and fresh air.

A Women's Canadian Club has been formed in London. The president is Mrs. Howard Ferguson, Lady McLaren Brown is vice-president, and the hon. secretary is Miss E. M. Gray, of Canada House.

The American Women's Club has long been a most active social centre in London.

Dr. W. G. Willoughby, President of the British Medical Association, speaking in London at the annual dinner of the British Dental Association, said that the work of the dentist in schools would considerably benefit future generations.

"Your rise has been meteoric," he said. "In less than another generation you will have secured what has always been wanted—a highly qualified body of men and women with the proper status, not to be beaten anywhere.

"I hope the time will come when it is realised that this is a specialist branch of the great art of science and medicine."

Mme. Curie recently attended the opening of the "Marie Curie Sklodowska" Institute of Radiology in Warsaw, her native city. The ceremony took place in the presence of the President of Poland and a distinguished gathering of scientists.

Miss Amelia Earhart (Mrs. Putnam) is to be awarded the American Distinguished Flying Cross by President Hoover, in recognition of her solo flight across the Atlantic.

The Senate has passed a special Bill to authorize the award.

No waiting till heroines are senile before recognition in U.S.A.!

When are we to learn of a well-earned honour being bestowed on the wonderful young woman architect of the splendid New Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon, recently opened by the Prince of Wales?

Londoners are to have an opportunity of seeing Miss Helen Keller, the famous American blind-deaf poetess and writer, during her present visit to Europe to receive the degree of Doctor of Laws at Glasgow University. Her first public appearance in London will take place on Monday, July 4th, when she will attend a complimentary luncheon at the headquarters of the National Institute for the Blind in Great Portland Street.

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