

The Hospitals and Medical Services Committee, the Mental Hospitals Committee, and the Public Assistance Committee have presented a joint report to the London County Council, asking for authority, "in view of the existing shortage of nurses, to employ married women temporarily as nurses in the Council's hospitals." We know of a number of hospitals where the Matrons have already invited nurses who have married to return to duty temporarily, owing to stress in the wards resulting from the shortage of probationers—and thankful they are to have this efficient help.

We attended a recent meeting held at St. Pancras

Matrons of that day, and a Hall completely packed with a most enthusiastic crowd of trained nurses assembled to claim the organisation of nurses on professional lines under the title of the British Nurses' Association.

We wondered as these wraiths passed beyond the veil—Isla Stewart, Mina Mollett, Victoria Jones, Cassandra Beachcroft and others—what would have been the result of this splendid enthusiasm and sense of professional unity, had the heads of the nursing schools, as a class, encouraged and guided the rank and file in their justifiable aspirations instead of bitterly opposing the movement for professional organisation and status, and attempting to suppress it! Should we, half a century

later, have had from the Labour benches this demand for freedom for hundreds of young nurses from conditions which should never have arisen?

There are those of us who have heard the tramp of the proletariat from afar. At this crisis there must be no slamming of gates in the face of nursing ranks inviting reforms for a second time. Now is the psychological moment for sympathetic conversations. We have no use for battering rams.

Overstrain would appear to be the cause of nurses walking in their sleep, several cases of which have been reported of late.

A constable at Portsmouth recently met at 2 a.m. a young woman in nightdress, dressing gown and slippers. She was walking in her sleep.

The constable conducted her, still asleep, to the police station. There she was put into blankets and kept warm.

Half an hour later, as she was still asleep, the police ambulance was called and she was taken to the Royal Portsmouth Hospital.

When she awoke, the young woman gave her name and age as 21. She said she was a nurse at a North End nursing home, from which it appears she must have walked to the place where the policeman

ultimately found her. How marvellous that no accident had befallen her.

Colonel Vaughan Randolph Hine-Haycock, of Bramley, Surrey, left a legacy of £200 to Miss M. A. Willcox, recently Matron of King's College Hospital, "as a memento of her kindness during the great war."

It is not often that a Matron receives a legacy in recognition of her arduous public service. We are pleased to note this gift.



HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH WITH LITTLE PATRICIA GILLERAN
in the Lewis Carroll Ward, St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

Town Hall called to discuss trades unionism for nurses, to the report of which we have devoted considerable space in this issue, as the policy of blinkers has never appealed to us.

Banquo's Ghost was also there, as through a veil we visualised the platform of the great meeting held in St. George's Hall on February 13th, 1888, with the President of the College of Surgeons in the chair, and queenly Princess Christian on his right-hand side—there also are the leaders of the medical profession, the progressive

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