

to hack away at governmental stupidity was necessary to-day.

The speaker instanced the strict attitude of the legal profession against undercutting, and the way that the Solicitors' Act was enforced against the non-qualified if they attempted to draft legal documents such as Tenancy Agreements, as showing how nurses should regard the Report's proposals to establish a Roll of inadequately qualified Assistant Nurses.

She drew attention to the Reservation signed by the four State Registered Nurses on the Committee, who appeared to her not to have taken legal advice before drafting what appeared over their signatures, and who seemed not to have expressed the full opposition to the scheme which she would have expected from members of the great nursing profession, for the Reservation, whilst aiming at antagonism, gave to the Government much too large a proportion of what seemed to be desired. The speaker urged nurses to show a stern spirit of resistance against any deterioration in their professional status such as the creation of such a Roll would constitute.

The Chairman then put the Resolution to the Meeting which was passed unanimously and with loud applause and waving of hands.

The Lady Hermione Blackwood, S.R.N., proposed a grateful vote of thanks to the Chair for which Miss Cochrane offered sincere thanks.

Thus concluded a very "live" Meeting the audience apparently inspired with determination to fight in support of their conscientious convictions.

THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE SECOND GRADE NURSE.

One of the most comprehensive Memoranda submitted to the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services was drafted by the British Medical Association. It is significant that while approving of a second grade nurse, the Association realises difficulties in connection with "The Assistant Nurse," in relation to the Registered Nurse, and submits the following distinction as a suggestion:

(1) *The State Registered Nurse.*—A well-educated woman, trained in the various branches of nursing and equipped for the higher and more responsible administrative positions as well as for practical nursing. She would be, as at present, under the control of the General Nursing Council.

(2) *The Nursing Assistant.*—A woman drawn more often from the elementary than from the secondary schools, and given a practical training of, say, two years, mainly in the wards for the chronic sick. She should not be required to pass any entrance or leaving examinations, but should show practical aptitude for this type of work. At the end of the training period she should be given a statement of satisfactory service which would permit her to use the title "nursing assistant," or such other title as may be agreed upon, but she should not be formally enrolled or admitted to any form of State Register. She would work under the direction of a trained staff and would relieve qualified nurses of much routine work which elsewhere is done by probationers.

We Registered Nurses, excluded from participating in the deliberations of the Inter-Departmental Committee set up by the Government to deal with our professional affairs, and, incidentally, with our lives, must, we presume, be thankful for small mercies. It is to be regretted that the Committee in its Report ignores the opinion of the British Medical Association and proposes that "second grade" nurses shall be granted the privileges of registration and State support—amending the Nurses Registration Act for the purpose—and thus degrading our status.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Miss Anna Schwarzenberg, Executive Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, has returned to London after her visit to the United States, where she consulted with the officers of the American Nurses' Association who have the organisation of the Meeting and Congress in 1941 of the I.C.N. in hand.

Miss Schwarzenberg, together with Miss Susan C. Francis, inspected Convention facilities of Atlantic City as a possible meeting place; but no decision as to a meeting place has as yet been decided.

Miss Florence H. M. Emory, as Chairman of the Membership Committee of the I.C.N., has asked through Headquarters that a Questionnaire dealing with the Membership of the Council may be circulated. The information required deals with the total membership of the National Council of Nurses, number of life members, number of honorary members, those who pay or do not pay annual fees. Fees: What fees are paid to the I.C.N. and other details. As far as we can gather the College of Nursing is the only affiliated organisation with thousands of non-paying members.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The Nursing Conference, Caxton Hall, S.W.1, November 10th, 1938. Afternoon session.

ORGANISED SYSTEM OF PROFESSIONAL PROPAGANDA.

At the afternoon session held in the York Hall, Miss B. M. Monk, C.B.E., R.R.C., S.R.N., presided.

Miss M. M. Ingman, S.R.N., presented an interesting Paper on the Nursing of the Chronic Sick, of the Aged, and Infirm, followed by Miss M. F. Hughes, D.N., S.R.N., who spoke as follows on "An Organised System of Professional Propaganda."

Propaganda.

The Student Nurse when asked her views on propaganda for the profession says "The nurse herself is the best means of propaganda," and I believe that when we have discussed this subject we shall find that it is the nurse, fully representative of the profession, loyal, keen and confident, who will help us most.

This subject is a big one, full of possibilities and no doubt also full of controversial matter.

I propose dealing with it under two headings:—

1.—Professional propaganda in order to attract candidates for the profession. This will undoubtedly be dealt with by other speakers under recruitment, but it can also be dealt with here. In the past all propaganda has been rather haphazard, and the little that is done is largely of an unsuitable nature.

1. Our recruiting ground is the school—therefore all information given to schools should be of a type to interest young girls. It should be correct information and attractively served out.

2. Films might be more extensively used. These should show the life of a probationer in hospital—work in the wards, particularly work with children—life in the Nurses' Home—good classrooms, bedrooms, sitting-rooms and sport, and then some aspects of work for the trained nurse, such as the Sister in hospital, the District Nurse, the Health Visitor, the Army Nurse, etc. Future important—especially to parents.

3. Talks on nursing as a career can be arranged either with or without films. These should be given regularly to schools by a person properly qualified to speak. Nurses in training have expressed their opinion that these talks

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)