

THE CASE OF MISS ANGELA M. RAVASIO, S.R.N.

Last month we published a short letter from Miss Angela M. Ravasio advocating "The Women for Westminster" movement which we had approved. She wrote from Queen Mary's Home for Nurses, Westminster Hospital. We thanked Miss Ravasio for her letter, as the work the movement proposed to do—the election of women to Parliament, and the civic and political education of women—appeared to us admirable; taking into consideration the fact that although they have been granted political enfranchisement, women as a sex, and nurses in particular, have not during the past twenty years made the slightest use for the benefit of the nation of their political power.

Miss Ravasio referred in no way to the Westminster Hospital, at which after 13 years' hospital work she was taking out a course in housekeeping. The result of her action in addressing a professional nurses' journal has been amazing. She was sent for by the Matron, Miss E. Smith, and severely reprimanded for her expression of opinion in the Press, and for daring to use the hospital address, an autocratic action which was naturally resented. High words on both sides followed.

Later the Matron sent for Miss Ravasio again and said she wished for her resignation.

Feeling bitterly aggrieved, without due consideration Miss Ravasio left Westminster Hospital at the end of the week, not having resigned in writing, as she received no salary. We gather that an additional offence was the complaint that the housekeeping course was inefficient and useless.

The result is the loss of an energetic and public-spirited girl to the Nursing Profession—at least for a time, as Miss Ravasio has now joined a National Women's Corps where her mental and physical qualities will have scope to benefit our country.

Taking into consideration the publication last year of "Hospital Nurse" by a Westminster nurse, we are of opinion that Miss Ravasio's case should be enquired into by the Hospital Board. The high-handed action of a few autocratic hospital Matrons brings discredit upon them as a class—*vide* the recent correspondence in the *British Medical Journal*. The day is past when one official should be permitted to exercise tyrannical power in public institutions.

WOMEN FOR WESTMINSTER.

The Women for Westminster Movement has re-opened its educational and discussion meetings with the following programme at 16, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1, on Thursdays at 6.30 p.m. :—

October 8th.—Speakers' Class: Five Minute Speeches, for or against Family Allowances.

October 15th.—Alderman A. Emil Davies, L.C.C. "Local Government: Present and Future."

October 22nd.—Monica Whately, L.C.C. "Do's and Don'ts for Candidates."

October 29th.—"The Party System and Cabinet Government." To be opened by a paper written by Bernard Shaw. Admission 1s.

We claim that there is nothing in this programme in which an intelligent nurse should not be interested, and we hope many of them will avail themselves of the privilege of being present at the meetings.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN.

THE LIFE SCIENCES AND CURRENT SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

The Annual Conference of the National Council of Women of Great Britain will be held on October 15th and 16th, 1942. The Sessions will be held in the Great Hall of the British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, W.C., and open at 9.30 a.m. Many very interesting resolutions hold promise of vital discussion. The British Social Hygiene Council urges the application of our knowledge of the life sciences to current social problems, and refers to population and family problems. Many nurses' organisations are affiliated to the National Council of Women and find coming into touch with bright and earnest women from every social circle of great educational value.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

Nearly 100 guests were present at the inaugural luncheon at the Mansion House on Thursday (October 1st), celebrating the amalgamation of the Queen's Hospital for Children and the Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital for Children. They now function as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, under the Presidency of Lord Iliffe. The new hospital has the unique distinction of having as Patrons both Their Majesties and the Princess Elizabeth.

Lord Iliffe briefly traced the 75-years' history of the hospitals and said that amalgamation had been decided upon with a view to securing greater efficiency and economy.

We are entirely in sympathy with the following expression of opinion by Sir Ernest Pooley, one of the Honorary Secretaries of King Edward's Hospitals Fund for London, that the Fund would continue to do what it could in the direction of amalgamations. "I do hope, however," he added, "that the powers that be will not do anything which will destroy the independence of the individual hospitals. While the State might control and plan, it is to be hoped that individual management will be left. Independence to that extent and the power of initiative is imperative."

INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association held their quarterly meeting, by kind permission, at Clare Hall Hospital, South Mimms, on Saturday afternoon, October 3rd. Notwithstanding travelling difficulties, there was a good attendance.

Among the items of business dealt with was the question of Tuberculosis and Fever Hospitals combining, and the Report of the Royal College of Nursing on the control of the Assistant Nurse. Owing to the limited time at the disposal of the meeting, the consideration of this Report had to be adjourned.

After the meeting, tea was served, in which Dr. Simmonds, the Medical Superintendent joined. The tea was followed by a most interesting talk on the surgical work of the hospital and the showing of a film (in Technicolor) "The Operation of Thoracoplasty," which was greatly enjoyed by all. Subsequently, the members were taken over the hospital, and finally, Miss McLoughlin extended a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Simmonds, and to the Matron (Miss Spall) for their hospitality and the arrangements made to ensure that the meeting should be a success.

BEATRICE M. WEST, S.R.N., S.C.M., *Hon. Sec.*

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