

Any expression of opinion from Mr. T. Johnston, the Scottish Secretary of State, will be received with good will, as he is esteemed as a patriot whose valuable service to the country is rendered without remuneration. Would that we had more officials of like calibre. The huge Ministerial salaries expenditure in England needs the curb chain.

The Spa Hospital, Strathpeffer, was recently totally destroyed by fire, and only the nurses' quarters were saved. The fire, which broke out on the roof in the early afternoon, quickly spread and within an hour flames had enveloped the whole building.

The fire was discovered by the hospital gardener, who worked with a stirrup pump until the roof fell. The matron and the staff assisted in fighting the flames, and managed to carry all the patients to safety from smoke-filled corridors. The patients were accommodated in another hospital near by.

The damage is estimated at £20,000, and only two years ago the building was a famous hotel, and was taken over as a hospital by Ross-shire County Council.

On the front page of *The Times* Educational Supplement dated May 30th, we note the following paragraph, entitled "Scheme to Train Nurses" :—

"The scheme for training girls of school-leaving age to become nurses, which, at the request of the regional division of the Ministry of Health, is to be initiated by the Hertfordshire County Council in September, will be watched with the keenest interest and every hope that it may prove highly successful. This scheme, which was considered by the council in 1938 but postponed on account of the war, is the nearest approach to that system of training for vocation under educational control which the *Educational Supplement* insists it should be the right of every boy and girl to enjoy. *A particularly happy feature of the scheme is that the teacher is to be regarded as a "leader," whose duties include, in addition to the teaching of one or two general subjects, the arrangement of the curriculum and the visiting of the nurseries and sick bays in which the practical work will be carried on to make sure that proper training is being given by the matrons and wardens.* Maintenance allowances are an essential part of the scheme, general education is generously provided for, and the curriculum leads naturally to further and more specialised training."

We hope the Association of Hospital Matrons will not accept this invidious position without protest.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION AND THE ASSISTANT NURSE.

The Royal British Nurses' Association has issued a convincing leaflet giving "Reasons why the Royal British Nurses' Association opposed the extension of the powers of the Nurses' Registration Act to give the recognition of the State to partially qualified nurses," as it considers that "the main purpose of the Act would be defeated thereby. These purposes were to protect the sick, and to safeguard the qualifications of the Registered Nurse."

Copies of this excellent leaflet can be obtained free from the Secretary, Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

The Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., will meet on Thursday, July 9th, at 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, at 2.30 p.m. As members are far too much occupied with their strenuous duties to attend many meetings, it is hoped they will reserve this date, if possible, to attend the meeting.

THE HISTORY OF NURSING SECTION.

We have to announce with very sincere gratitude a further historic gift from Miss Mary Hilliard, R.B.N.A. She has presented to the History Section of the British College of Nurses, medals presented for valour during the Hunger Strike in Holloway Prison in 1912, presented to her "By the Women's Social and Political Union in recognition of a gallant action whereby through endurance to the last extremity of Hunger and Hardship a great Principle of Political Justice was vindicated."

No greater compliment has ever been paid to the British College of Nurses than that it should have been entrusted with the care of the unique medals, bars and ribbons of the nurses who helped through severe suffering to wrench freedom of body and soul for the women of the United Kingdom in the past century.

The Signature of Elizabeth Fry.

Another gift recently received and which will be greatly valued is the signature of Elizabeth Fry, which was evidently attached to a letter as follows :—

Believe me,

Thy obliged and affectionate friend,

Elizth Fry.

Beneath the signature some one has written on this slip of old paper "Some folks would prize this signature." They will indeed!

Sincere thanks have been sent to Miss A. M. M. Morgan of Haslemere, who has enriched the History Section of the College by this gift.

WOMEN FOR WESTMINSTER.

A new society is being organised to promote the election of more women to the House of Commons, and to enable them to take their share in post-war reconstruction. Nurses are being invited to help organise it, and information can be obtained from Miss Dorothy E. Evans, 14, Dartmouth Street, London, S.W.1.

One movement advocated, in which the present generation of nurses are singularly devoid, is "Practice in Lobbying," and we note that a party is going to the House of Commons on June 10th, from 12.15 to 2 p.m., to enlist support for Equal Compensation for War Injury for Men and Women. It seems incredible that there should be need for such a claim.

The prospectus states: "There is evidently a demand for lectures on Machinery of Government, Economics, Political Theory, Parliamentary Procedure, History of the Women's Movement and the Social Services, and a series of such classes are being organised. All this sounds as if women are awakening to the fact that they have been snoozing long enough, and that it is high time to wake up and realise their public duty."

In the nursing world we should not find 600 matrons ready to degrade nursing standards, and thus fail to realise their duty to State Registered Nurses and the sick poor—unless they had first failed as citizens. The call of the new organisation sounds hopeful. We welcome it.

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