

the enemy aside and took the Chair, dictating a drastic resolution—(drink, indeed!)—which we passed unanimously, a copy of which she handed to the shrinking Secretary, and marched out in triumph!

Courtesy—a negligible quantity indeed where Right predominated!

Would that we had a few of these forceful women in our midst in these expedient days!

How the "Ernies," in their ministerial fastnesses, would tremble! Yes, a comic history of nursing should be placed on record. Where is the memory and the pen?

The old saying that "You cannot pour out of a pitcher what isn't in it," sounds easy to an Editor attempting to cram information into a journal for which there is neither space nor paper. Over-matter accumulates, and much of vital interest to our profession gets crowded out. Thus please forgive the omission of your interesting communications. War is war.

A correspondent in *The Times* touches the weak spot in the new education proposals when he alludes to what he terms "a pariah class of teachers," and all he says is analogous to nursing under the new Nurses Acts. He alludes to the teachers in elementary and secondary schools, and points out there is a rigid "No thoroughfare" for elementary teachers. "The distinction is social, not educational," he continues. "Once elementary, always elementary. To have been a teacher in an elementary school is to mark yourself with a definite social stigma, just as the elementary school building is marked by a lack of decent amenities. There you have the reason why eager and self-respecting people turn their backs on the schools that need them most. They quite properly refuse to take up an occupation that definitely brands them as an inferior class. . . . I merely point out that while a pariah class of teachers is allowed to exist, the supply of good recruits will fail."

We agree. The new Nurses Acts institute a "pariah" class of nurse, than which nothing can be more snobbish and unfair; and already the efficiently organised Schools of Nursing attached to leading hospitals are secreting themselves behind invisible barbed wire.

On the other hand, the Nurses' Recruitment Committee of the Ministry of Labour is demanding more and more labour control of the nursing community. If it has its way, we shall all soon be de-graded to "pariah" status.

There are signs, however, that the supply of Assistant Nurses may fizzle out at no distant date. We were cheered up recently by the reply of a pretty young Irish housemaid leaving to be a nurse, who in reply to our question, "Are you going to be an Assistant Nurse?" promptly answered, "Certainly not; I am going to be a regular probationer and become a Registered nurse."

American nurses are now to be found working in many parts of the world, including British Possessions. The financial support of the Rockefeller Foundation has made their services available.

HUGE INCREASED EXPENDITURE.

£200,000 INCREASE OF SALARY FOR MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL NURSING RESERVE.

We have received a notification from the Ministry of Health that Civil Nursing Reserve members employed in hospitals are to receive increases of salary totalling nearly £200,000 a year.

The Minister of Health, Mr. Ernest Brown, has reviewed their rates of pay and conditions of service in the light of the Rushcliffe Committee's recommendations on salary scales (which applied to hospital nurses who are not members of the Civil Nursing Reserve).

The new rates of pay will take effect from April 1st last. They apply to Civil Nursing Reserve members other than those employed in the Civil Defence Services (who are paid at Civil Defence rates).

The increase affects nearly 21,000 hospital nurses—4,000 trained nurses, 3,350 assistant nurses and 13,500 nursing auxiliaries.

In addition, Civil Nursing Reserve members of any grade employed in tuberculosis wards or institutions will get a further £10 a year. They will also have free travel twice a week to the nearest town.

Members possessing a recognised diploma in nursing will receive an additional £5 annually.

This is the third time Civil Nursing Reserve salary scales have been increased since the war.

AN ECONOMIC QUESTION.

The most significant detail in this announcement is the fact that this huge increased annual expenditure affects only 4,000 trained nurses, the remaining 16,850 being untrained workers with varied experience of little real value as members of a skilled service to the sick.

When war ceases and the majority of the hospitals for sick and wounded nursed by the Civil Nursing Reserve are disbanded, what is going to happen to these highly paid practically unskilled workers? That is the very serious economic question the Registered Nurses have got to face, and it will be the duty of the Ministry of Health to solve it. As the Horsburgh régime, in determinedly helping to thrust on the Statute Book most unjust legislation, it must be held mainly responsible for the damage to nursing efficiency made possible through the enforcement of the Nurses Acts, 1943.

Registered Nurses must realise that unless they appreciate the result of this overwhelming competition and take action to protect the standards they have attained, they will inevitably be pressed out of honourable practice. Let us hope they will unite to protect the sick before it is too late.

QUEEN'S INSTITUTE OF DISTRICT NURSING.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of the following Queen's Nurses—to serve in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland—sixty-three were trained in England, one in Wales, eighteen in Scotland and five in Northern Ireland. No service of nurses is of greater value to the community than the Queen's Nurses, and it is well so many are available in these strenuous times, when our sick and wounded are in such need of skilled nursing—on active service.

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