

abound, and each of whom helps to bring Nursing into disrepute. In many instances the true Nurse, in private work, has to live down an evil reputation, and not unnaturally she resents the imputation on herself and her profession. Hence strained relations are apt to arise between Patient and Nurse.

Now that the Registration of certified Nurses is an accomplished fact, it must follow as a matter of course that public confidence will be restored, the position of the certificated ones assured, and people convinced that on engaging a Nurse whose name is on the Register, they may count on the services of a skilled professional woman. This is in fact an official rendering of the term Nurse, and it is satisfactory to have a definition, even though it put a curb on the imagination, and dispel the vision of the traditional Sister of Mercy, half saint half woman, whom we like to think ourselves entitled to expect when we are ill. It will at the same time do away with the modern travesty and caricature, Mrs. Gamp, of whom perhaps we have heard enough. For my own part, in the emphatic words of her colleague, "I don't believe there never was no such person," as Mrs. Gamp. She is one of Dickens's most exaggerated caricatures; she may have existed as monstrosities exist, but was never a type of any order of Nurses, or she would survive to-day. The kindly, motherly old body, who in town, or more often in village, takes to Nursing, is, it is true, entirely untaught and untrained, superstitious and mischievously ignorant in many ways, but she follows her dim light as well as she can, and does her best for her poor sick people—more helplessly ignorant than herself.

The Nurse of to-day should no more trace her ancestry to Mrs. Gamp, than the Surgeon of to-day need claim descent from Dr. Sangrado, or the Leech, whose duty as physician was to deplete his patient and pocket his fee. There must at all times have been true and earnest men, unlettered and unscientific according to modern views, but laborious in seeking truth, and honestly practising to the extent of their power, the healing art. The Surgeons of to-day have no more sprung from Barbers and Bleeders than has our modern Nurse evolved from Mrs. Gamp.

In the religious women and Sisters of Mercy we may find the prototype of the true Nurse, and if the cultured professional women of this century will crown their attainments with the spirit of love and devotion that characterized these earlier Nurses, the Nurse of the future will, I venture to think, represent the highest possible order of womanhood.

HENRIETTA KENEALY.

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Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

Her Royal Highness, the President, is expected to preside at the Quarterly Meeting of the General Council, to be held at 20, Hanover Square, W., on Friday, October 27th, at 5 p.m.

Adjourned meetings of the Executive Committee were held on Tuesday, October 17th, and Friday, October 20th, at 5 p.m., and a further adjourned meeting will be held on Friday, before the General Council.

The Annual *Conversazione* will take place on Thursday, December 7th, and, as in former years, in the Galleries of Princes Hall, Piccadilly. Arrangements for the evening's entertainment are now under the consideration of a special Sub-Committee appointed for this purpose, and it is expected that this year the evening will be as great a success, and as wholly enjoyable, as in former years. Further details will be announced later on, when the arrangements have been completed.

Sessional Lectures.—It is recommended by the Executive Committee that the lectures hitherto given during the winter shall be greatly extended during the coming session, with a view to making them of a more educational character, and of real professional value to Nurses. It is, therefore, proposed that a course of twelve lectures on "Physiology," shall be given after Christmas, by a Medical man, to be delivered once or twice a week, as may be arranged, at 8.30 in the evening (this hour having been found to be the most convenient for Nurses to attend, especially for those working in hospitals), and that these should be followed by a course of twelve lectures on "Hygiene." Admission to these lectures will be free to all Members of the Corporation, but a small charge will be made to all other Nurses, of which due notice will be given. The names of the lecturers will be announced shortly.

It is further proposed, in addition to the above-mentioned courses, to give some Post-Graduate Lectures, the first course of which it is hoped will be on the subject of "Diphtheria," both from the Medical and Nursing point of view. These will also be given after Christmas, and further particulars announced in a later issue of this journal.

The first Sessional Lecture will be given on Friday evening, November 17th, at 20, Hanover Square, W., at 8.30 p.m., and Dr. Bezly Thorne, the Honorary Secretary of the Association, has kindly promised to read a paper.

The Secretary being very anxious to make the personal acquaintance of the Members, would be very glad if those living in the country would take the opportunity of calling at the office, 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, when in London at any time. She would also express the hope that members living in town will make use of the Reading Room, which is well supplied with papers, &c. The Secretary is of course glad to see members at all times, but would ask them, when possible, to call in the afternoon from 2 to 4, when she has more leisure to devote to conversation.

The Secretary has great pleasure in announcing that all meetings of the Corporation, and all news of interest to the members, will, for the future, be inserted in the *NURSING RECORD*, by the kind permission of the Editor, which, as the paper is published weekly, will doubtless prove of great value to members in keeping them informed of everything connected with their Association.

DAISY ROBINS,
 Secretary and Registrar.

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