

A cordial vote of thanks to the Committee, especially to Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was proposed by Miss Julia Hurlston, R.N.S., seconded, and carried by acclamation. A vote of thanks to Miss Millington, for her kindness in inviting the meeting to take place at her house, proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and seconded by Miss Margaret Breay, brought to a close an eminently satisfactory meeting.

The rest of the day was given over to social intercourse and entertainment. Full justice was done to the tea and coffee, and many other good things, which were provided in the tea room, and daintily arranged upon tables artistically decorated with a wealth of autumnal flowers and foliage; and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was here presented with a lovely bouquet of crimson geraniums and white chrysanthemums, the NURSING RECORD colours. Many of the visitors indulged in games of croquet, and the thud of the cricket bat, and the exclamation, "Well hit," were heard from time to time, while from the drawing room were wafted the strains of an excellently rendered selection of vocal and instrumental music.

Many old friendships were renewed, and strengthened, and the visitors at length reluctantly departed, having spent a most enjoyable afternoon, and being hospitably invited by Miss Millington, who was a charming hostess, to "come again next year," an invitation of which we do not doubt that all who are able will gladly avail themselves.

The most noteworthy feature in the report of the Registered Nurses' Society is, we think, the announcement that the nurses of this Society are about to begin to manage their own affairs. In the past, nurses have often been considered almost in the light of pawns on a chess board, to be moved about at the will of a superior officer, and have not been expected, or encouraged, to have any interest in the management of their own affairs; but the women of to-day have an individuality, and also a capacity, which cannot be ignored, and it is a matter for congratulation that the Registered Nurses' Society, which was the first to demonstrate the need of a Society which should guarantee to the public that all its members had had at least three years' hospital training, and had succeeded in obtaining the registration of their qualifications by a central authority, should also lead the way in making it possible for its members to take into their own hands the management of their own affairs. Women have always risen to their responsibilities when they have been placed in positions of trust; and we do not doubt that the work of the six members of the Registered Nurses' Society who are to be elected by their colleagues, to serve on the Committee, will be of great value, both to the other members of the co-operation and to the present Committee of Management.

## Nursing at Maidstone.

ON Tuesday I had the pleasure of inspecting the arrangements which have been made, during the past fortnight, for nursing the terrible epidemic of enteric fever, at Maidstone. Arriving at Maidstone on an ideal October day, I turned into the Tonbridge Road, flooded with mellow sunshine, and facing a gay wind, before which the fallen leaves flew lightly, as yet unglided by a touch of frost, I made my way up the hill. Five minutes in Maidstone, a few questions from the casual passer-by, and one gathered the fact that no such thing as panic existed; in fact, stupendous ignorance of details of the fever epidemic reigned supreme, and the people wisely went about their daily avocations with a calm mind. Passing, I took a peep into the relief station, at the Alexandra Hall, but finding nothing but an array of empty chairs in the board room, made my way to the Wesleyan Schools, which I found had been opened on the previous evening as a hospital for women, and contained thirty beds, the majority of which were already filled with women and children, in the various stages of enteric fever, to whose needs several nurses were attending; but as, seemingly, courtesy to strangers had not been included in their training school curriculum (a somewhat general omission, we fear, from complaints which reach us, of lack of *savoir faire* on the part of trained nurses when in brief authority), I left the ward in search of pastures new and intelligent information—both of which I speedily found, and thoroughly enjoyed for the next six hours.

Nothing can exceed the splendid organization which is being effected by the Corporation and Medical Officer for Health, to cope with the epidemic, and to provide skilled medical and nursing care for the patients.

The Town Council has been fortunate in securing some of the most experienced doctors to take charge of the hospitals. Among them are Dr. Poole, late house surgeon at Guy's Hospital; Dr. Russell, formerly medical officer at the Liverpool Fever Hospital, where some 500 typhoid cases were treated a few years ago; Drs. Cardin and Gardiner, of Guy's; Dr. Saunders, of St. Thomas's; and Dr. Dudgeon; and Miss Annie Plowman has been appointed Matron and Superintendent of Nursing. Miss Plowman was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and as she had been one of my first and most intelligent probationers, trained in what are now often alluded to as the "good old days"—days when the hours were long and the work laborious, and the women who "finished time" proved themselves made of genuine good stuff—I felt that the responsible duties of the office could not have been placed in more capable hands. Miss Plowman has lately resigned the position of matron to the Monsall Fever Hospital after six years' work, so

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