

"Queen's Commemoration Fund" to raise sufficient funds to endow the "Queen's Institute" in perpetuity, so that it may keep pace with the ever-growing demands on its resources.

Having thus outlined the history of district nursing from one nurse in 1859 to the great work of mercy which has spread over the whole land, I would only add that it is not systems alone, admirable as they may be, which bring success, it is the work of each individual nurse which makes the work what it is; it is not nursing alone, though that should be as perfect and well disciplined as training and experience can ensure, but moral influence, to which there is practically no limit.

The influence of a good nurse remains after her nursing services are ended. It is the opportunities given by district nursing that make it so important and so responsible. Nurses who grasp the inner meaning of their work have few limits to their powers of usefulness. They nurse the homes as well as the patients; they give valuable object-lessons in the practical details of nursing, simple sick cookery, cleanliness, etc., thus helping their fellow-women to be less helpless and hopeless when sickness invades the home. They can advocate self-restraint, thrift, and household economies; they can give valuable advice in the dieting and management of infants and young children, so helping to strengthen the sinews of the nation—"As the child is, so the man is"—and the simple hygiene of proper feeding taught in language "understood by the people" means the future welfare of its sons. Thus every earnest district nurse who sows the seeds of thrift, self-help, self-restraint, self-respect in the round of daily work is a helper, however obscure her path of duty, in solving the social problems of the day.

I will conclude with the message entrusted to me on June 15th by Miss Florence Nightingale to give to the district nurses at the Congress:—

"I do not think that there is any human being who may be as useful as a district nurse if she is helpful without being interfering. May God bless and keep the district nurses here in a body is the fervent prayer of Florence Nightingale."

The Medical, Surgical, and Hygienic Exhibition.

The exhibition organised by the Medical, Surgical, and Hygienic Exhibitors' Association, which is well known and very popular amongst nurses, will take place at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W., on May 20th, May 21st, May 22nd, and May 23rd. Nurses in uniform will be admitted free. We have no doubt that the many novelties which will be on view will attract a large number of visitors. An attractive stall, as in former years, will be that of the NURSING RECORD.

The Matrons' Council Conference.



The Programme of the Conference of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland has been arranged as follows:

THURSDAY, MAY 29TH.

At the Medical Societies' Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square. Miss Isla Stewart, President, in the chair.

2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

1. Presidential Address.
2. The New Treatment, by Heat, of Chronic Ear Disease—Macleod Year-ley, Esq., F.R.C.S.
3. The Nursing of Tuberculosis—Miss Helen Todd, Matron of the National Sanatorium for Consumption, Bournemouth.
4. Nursing Ethics—Miss Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton.

Questions of Professional Interest which may arise.

FRIDAY, MAY 30TH.

At Morley Hall, 26, George Street, Hanover Square, W.

11 a.m.

Quarterly meeting of the Matrons' Council, Miss Isla Stewart, President, in the chair.

The Registration Sub-Committee will present a Report, after which the Matrons' Council will hand over this work to the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, members of which Society are invited to be present at this meeting.

12 noon.

Meeting of the Members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, Miss Louisa Stevenson, member of the Board of Management of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and of the Council of the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, presiding.

AGENDA.

- To elect officers.
- To adopt a constitution.
- Other business.

3 p.m.

Public meeting in favour of the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Miss Louisa Stevenson will preside, and will deliver an address.

She will be followed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President International Council of Nurses, Miss Isla Stewart, President of the Matrons' Council,

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