

about offers of help in the way on the subject, collections, &c.

The subjects a nurse actually wants may not interest every family into which she may go, but that is no reason why she should not acquire some information (and all useful information can be used for self-improvement) upon subjects which may prove as interesting and useful as any which she has hitherto taken up.

But a nurse must be ready, willing, and interested in whatever may come her way if she is to get the best opportunities in private nursing for self-improvement. For self-improvement does not necessarily mean to be an expert on one subject only and an ignoramus on everything else, but to gather up all the information attainable on as many subjects as possible, and so have a well-stored mind, which not only receives but can give out, and so increase the knowledge of the world.

MARY BURR.

### The King and the Army Medical Corps.

At Aldershot on Wednesday afternoon, the King unveiled a granite memorial obelisk to the memory of the officers and men of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who gave their lives for their country in the recent war—a fitting tribute to many a gallant deed.

### The Asylum Workers' Association.

The Annual Meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Friday, May 19th.

Sir John Batty Tuke, the newly-elected President, was in the chair, and the occasion had a special interest due to the presence of his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Report, being printed and in the hands of members, was taken as read, and the Chairman, in presenting it, spoke of the deep interest he felt in the aims and objects of the Association. For fifty years he had lived and worked among the insane, and therefore had an intimate knowledge of the responsibility and anxiety of asylum work. There had been a falling off in membership during the past year, but societies were subject to ebb and flow, and there were now signs of recovery. The financial condition was satisfactory.

There were at the present time two political questions under consideration, each of which was of special importance to the Association, namely, registration and pensions. Two Bills dealing with Registration were now before Parliament. A Select Committee had been appointed to report upon the subject, and it was now sitting and receiving evidence. The Medico-Psychological Association

was in favour of this, and they urged that if the principle of registration were agreed to at the meeting, mental nurses should participate in the movement. As a member of the Select Committee it would be improper for him to commit himself in any way with reference to Registration, but he had made every effort to secure full representation for that body. Sir James Crichton Browne had already given evidence, and other mental experts would also appear in due time before the Committee. If, and the IF, perhaps, was a big one, the principle of Registration were agreed to by the Select Committee, the difficulty might then be to define a standard. At first, as far as asylum workers, both men and women, were concerned, there would be no difficulty for the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association and testimonial of good character would be sufficient. But two, three, or more years after the passing of an Act another qualification would be needed, that of general training in a hospital. In no branch of the work is courage, tact, and consideration so necessary as in the nursing of the insane, but to make a perfect training, technical knowledge, which alone can be gained in a general hospital, is desirable. The President continued:—Now we come to pensions, and on this subject I have a freer hand. No class of public servants are more deserving of retiring allowances. The hours are long, and each hour is an anxiety and tax. When the time comes, I will make every effort and use all my influence to obtain a clause for that purpose. The Lunacy Amendment Bill now before Parliament is quite inefficient, and I am doing my best to prevent it reaching a second reading, or to throw it out altogether. I hope, before long, to see a Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the whole question of Lunacy Administration.

Sir James Crichton-Browne, in seconding the report, urged the importance of drawing nearer to, and affiliating with, other bodies of workers in the profession, and also paid a high tribute to the qualities and character of the asylum nurse.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury said:—I came to learn rather than to speak, and also to show my interest in a work, which is, of necessity very near my heart. As a curate I was brought into frequent touch with asylum work, and then learnt to entertain a respect, which has been lasting, for medical officers and nurses in the most difficult complex, and grave duties of administering to the mind, body and soul of the mentally afflicted under their charge. It is buoyancy of character and natural gifts that make the work, often so depressing, possible, but the highest moral powers are also necessary and important.

Medals for long-continued nursing service were presented to Chief Attendant Waterhouse, Inspector W. A. Jarman, Chief Attendant Livingstone (Argyll and Bute Asylum), and Miss Farmer.

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