

Miss Sidney Browne, Miss Helen Pearse, Miss Elma Smith, Miss Eleanor Richardson, Miss Marquardt and Miss Rosina Graham, and many points were alluded to touching the Matron's work in connection with ethics, the co-operation of the profession, systems of training, terms of office for Sisters, Sisters' Salaries, &c.

The meeting was glad to hear from the Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service that the salaries of the Sisters in that Service had been considerably raised.

The points discussed were all important ones to the Twentieth Century Matron, as she is more and more becoming recognised as chief nurse and professional colleague rather than as a domestic official and buffer between the lay management and the nursing staff, and a large part of her future duty will be comprised in carefully keeping the Committee of the Institution to which she is attached in touch with professional evolution and standard of education.

Nurses nowadays are not prepared to take as an excuse from a Matron, in opposing what they consider to be just conditions of life and work, that she is merely a tool in hands of a Board of Management.

If she is not first and foremost the Superintendent of Nursing in the wards and Superintendent of Nurses in the Home, a leader in professional organisation and progress, the Twentieth Century Nurse has no use for her as a Twentieth Century Matron.

In a few last words Miss Stewart said she must defend herself in one point from Miss Mollett. She did not pit the ethical and professional questions against one another. Professionalism involved solidarity, the maintenance of the dignity of the body by each. It was alongside with the moral standpoint.

Miss Mollett said then she agreed with Miss Stewart. She was absolutely at one with her as to need for the solidarity of Matrons.

After a cordial vote of thanks—proposed by Miss Sidney Browne, and seconded by Miss A. Row, Lady Superintendent of the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell—had been accorded to Miss Stewart for her valuable paper, an adjournment was made for tea and coffee.

MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Sec.

Awards at Liege International Exhibition.

The International jury of the Liège Exhibition have conferred upon Burroughs Wellcome and Co. six grand prizes, three diplomas of honour and three gold medals for the scientific excellence of their products, including "Wellcome" Brand Chemicals, "Tabloid" and "Soloid" Brand Products, "Kepler" Preparations, "Tabloid" Brand Photographic Chemicals, "Hazeline" Preparations, Pleated Compressed Surgical Dressings, "Tabloid" Brand Medical Equipments.

The Real Thing.

BY LAVINIA L. DOCK.

There are two of the many spectacles of this spectacular world that I find quite impressive—one of them causes a pleasing, the other a displeasing surprise. They are, on the one hand, the rise, success, number, and influence of nursing journals, ethically managed and edited, and on the other the belated survival of pseudo or quasi nursing journals commercially managed, and edited heaven knows how.

Oh, a glorious thing is the freedom of the press, and a glorious state is that individual freedom which permits fortunate human beings to use this potent weapon in furtherance of the ideals of an advancing civilization and a broadening, liberal education! But what a weird, erratic, and illogical freak of aimlessness is it when we use our freedom in supporting that element of the press which would take freedom from us, and in paying our hard-earned and often scanty pence to strengthen influences which are opposed to our true interests and which consistently try to undo everything we are doing or trying to do! Is it not an absurdity of absurdities? Nurses are not guiltless of this weird freakishness. I have heard them emphatically condemn or resent the line taken by quack journals in matters which they felt personally, and yet in the same breath admit that they subscribe to them.

It sounds incredible, but it is a fact, that many women do not realize that in subscribing to a journal they encourage it and strengthen its spirit, whatever that spirit is, and that by *not* subscribing they *discourage* it and diminish its influence. They have never thought far enough back to realize that in buying and paying for a thing they tacitly approve it, and give a silent order for more of the same kind. So we have the remarkable spectacle of women actually paying an income and profits to the enemies of their own progress! Think this over, friends, and see if it isn't true. Nurses are not the only short-sighted sisters. In a certain country there is a certain sheet, edited by men for women, which breathes continuously the paltriest and most belittling estimate of women, and yet this sheet is entirely supported by women, and with a copious lavishness which enables it to buy brains in strong and in weak solution. One wonders whether women are really no better than the estimate of this editor. Certainly he is encouraged in his contempt.

The trouble is, they do not think out the meaning of these tactics. They *are* better, but they are thoughtless. Interested in a pleasant

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