

tributed by the Committee who take the keenest interest in their welfare. After partaking of the good things provided the "Pom Poms" gave a most enjoyable al fresco concert, which was much appreciated by all present.

The Committee wish to celebrate the event in a more permanent fashion, and are appealing for £3,000 with which to complete the rebuilding. The institution is entirely free of debt, and is exceedingly well and economically managed, the average cost per head being 4½d. per day for provisions. It is therefore worthy of every support, and the Committee should find no difficulty in obtaining the required amount. That the work suggested is sadly needed everyone who visits the Eye Infirmary testifies; a building adapted for its purpose a century ago is entirely unsuited for modern surgery, and that such excellent work is done speaks volumes for the skill and care of the medical and surgical staffs.

The Lemco Company have issued some most charming menus, which they supply free of charge to hotel and boarding house customers. They are in the shape of palettes, on which sprays of different flowers have been beautifully reproduced. There are six to the set, and the company will send two sets to anyone writing their name and address on a Lemco wrapper, and posting it to Lemco, Menu Department, 4, Lloyd's Avenue, London, E.C.

Professional Reviews.

THE SCIENCE AND ART OF NURSING. VOL. I.

The first two volumes of "The Science and Art of Nursing," which is being brought out by Messrs. Cassell and Co., Ltd., are now published and available for subscribers, though the present edition is not obtainable through the general booksellers.

It is produced in excellent type, clearly arranged and handsomely bound, and the preface states that it is "a work for nurses, by nurses, and by medical men who are engaged in the teaching and training of nurses."

NURSING PAST AND PRESENT.

The book, which contains many valuable articles by expert writers, scarcely bears out the above claim, as the first chapter, on "Nursing Past and Present," is by Mrs. Sarah A. Tooley, neither a nurse nor a medical practitioner, and it would have gained much had this important subject been contributed by a member of the profession concerned. It is unfortunate that it should have been dealt with in a very superficial manner by an unprofessional person, and that the book should be marred by inaccurate statements which are the less excusable because reference to official sources and printed documents, in which facts are accurately stated, is readily accessible.

INACCURATE STATEMENTS.

To mention a few of these inaccurate statements:

In her attempt to allege that the proposal by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to form nurses into a self-governing professional body was anticipated by

others, Mrs. Tooley goes out of her way to make statements which are absolutely inaccurate, and which can readily be disproved by documentary evidence.

In connection with the British Nurses' Association many errors occur. In regard to the statement that, at its inception in 1887, "Miss Catherine Wood undertook the duties of Hon. Secretary, assisted by Miss Paul," it may be pointed out that all the organising work of the Association for the first year was done at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W. Miss Wood became the Secretary soon after the Association was founded, and resigned, from pressure of other work, in January, 1890, being succeeded by Miss H. Foggo Thomson. Miss Paul, who is not a trained nurse, was not connected in any way with the Association until August of the same year, when she was appointed its paid Secretary, a position which she only held for a short time, and resigned to help Miss Wood to start the Nurses' Hostel.

The statement on page 30 that the Association "did not in the earlier years of its existence make a demand for the State Registration of Nurses" is an astounding one. When upon the invitation of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick a meeting was held on November 21st, 1887, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., at which she put forward her suggestion for the formation of the Association, "it was unanimously resolved that a British Nurses' Association should be formed for the purposes of bringing about the Registration of Nurses by a professional body." The above purpose was incorporated when its objects were defined in 1888, the second object of the British Nurses' Association being "to provide for their Registration . . . as evidence of their having received systematic training." It was further emphasised in 1894, in a paper contributed by Princess Christian, as President of the Association, to the International Congress of Hygiene and Demography at Buda-Pesth. The paper contained the following Clause:

"It is the hope of the Corporation that the time is not far distant when the State will see the importance of recognising a definite Diploma in Nursing, and of giving its official sanction to the maintenance of the Register of Trained Nurses."

It is noteworthy that two years later the officially appointed representative of the Executive Committee, to the extreme indignation of the founders, voted for a Resolution:—

"That a legal system of Registration of Nurses is inexpedient in principle, injurious to the best interest of nurses, and of doubtful public benefit," because unless this betrayal of trust in regard to the objects for which the Association was founded is realised, its later history is incomprehensible to those not acquainted with the story of its foundation.

It was this betrayal of the primary object of the British Nurses' Association by the hon. officers which caused the resignation of its most devoted nurse members, and the formation by them of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

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