

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD

EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,110.

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1909.

XLIII.

Editorial.

THE FEAST OF REASON.

As the time of the International Congress of Nurses approaches it becomes evident that the week will be one of the greatest professional interest and importance, and the papers already received are characterised by a high standard of knowledge and literary merit. Mrs. Hampton Robb's paper on "The International Standard of Nursing Education" is sure to be admirably practical. Mr. D'Arcy Power opens up many points for discussion in dealing with the doctor's view of "The Nurse in Private Practice," and Miss Beatrice Kent discusses the subject effectively from the nurse's point of view, especially in reference to the economic question.

In the Session on "The Nurse as Citizen" Lady Helen Munro Ferguson's address from the chair is sure to be both eloquent and impressive; and Miss Nutting's paper on "The Preparation of the Nurse for Administrative Positions and for Social Service" will be written with the fulness of knowledge and literary skill which delighted us in the "History of Nursing." No one has had more practical experience of the work of "The Nurse Among the Poor" than Mlle. Chaptal, whose paper on this subject is sure to be of much interest; and Nursing in Factories, with special reference to the Cleveland Hardware Nurse, is a quite new subject.

"The Relations of Nursing and Medicine" promise to be brilliantly dealt with by Miss Mollett and Dr. Sevestre, and will open a very lively and progressive discussion.

"The Care of the Insane" will be discussed in a most interesting manner by Dr. Robert Jones, Resident Physician and Superintendent, Claybury Asylum; and "A Survey of the Nursing of Mental Diseases" by Dr. William Russell, Medical Inspector of the State Commission in Lunacy, New York, deals specially with the hospitalisation of asylums for the insane and training

schools for mental nurses. Miss Sara E. Parsons, in a paper in this Session, describes the ideal mental hospital, the basis of its efficient system being no bars, no locks, and no restraint. Miss Parsons also advocates that schools of mental nursing should be affiliated with those of general hospitals.

Of "The Nurse as Patriot" little need be said, except that the Address by the Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, Secretary of State for War, is certain to be inspiring and uplifting. France, Germany, and the United States of America will all have something to report in this Session.

In our opinion the most important Session of the whole Congress will be the one on "Morality in Relation to Health." The Hon. Albinia Brodrick, who will read the first paper, has great command of the question, and it is inevitable that the paper presented by Miss L. L. Dock should reach a high standard of excellence, both from a humanitarian and professional standpoint; it will, we hope, in this country, be the beginning of an earnest campaign against the stupid ignorance and false sentiment, of which the result, to innocent human beings, is to subject them to sufferings which are worse than death.

"The Nurse in the Mission Field" also promises to arouse the deepest interest in the training of nurses for work in the foreign field, Miss E. M. Fox, Matron of the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Tottenham, having prepared a paper in which the highest ideals are placed before the profession, and Dr. E. M. Stuart will emphasise the great need for and value of the work of nurses in connection with foreign missions.

The whole tone of the papers to be presented to the Congress is a very high one, and they show a remarkable grasp of important problems and an earnestness which is an augury of the spirit which will animate the great body of women who will shortly meet in conference to discuss and deliberate upon their professional affairs.

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