

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

LUNCHEON AT THE GENERAL HOSPITAL.

By the very kind permission of the Committee, Miss Musson entertained the officers and some of the delegates to the Conference at luncheon between the sessions on the opening day (Wednesday, June 10th). Amongst the guests were the President and Hon. Secretary of the N.C.T.N., Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss Beatrice Cutler, Miss Huxley, Vice-President; Miss A. Smith (Kingston), Miss Carson Rae (Dublin), and Miss Wright (Glasgow), Directors; Miss Rogers, President Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League; Miss Miller, Royal Free Hospital Nurses' League; Miss Elma Smith, City of Westminster Infirmary Nurses' League; Miss Hulme, Hon. Secretary Matrons' Council; Miss Blayney, Chester; Miss Falconer, Cheltenham, and Sister H. Arendt.

The table was charmingly decorated with flowers, and great glass bowls of fruit salads and dainty sweets. That Miss Musson welcomed her guests with delightful hospitality goes without saying. To encourage a spirit of sympathy between nurses and to afford facilities for hospitality is wisely provided for in the constitution of the National Council of Trained Nurses, and much of the success of the Council has been built up through this policy. It is a poor heart that never rejoices—the Council believes in the happiness evolved by kindly social relations between members of the nursing profession.

MUNICIPAL RECEPTION AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE.

The municipal recognition of the aims and work of the National Council of Trained Nurses, by the Lord Mayor, and the Lady Mayoress of Birmingham (Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Martineau) gave widespread pleasure to the members of the Conference, and the Reception on the afternoon of the 10th inst., at the Council House, was largely attended from 4 to 6 p.m. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress assisted by their daughter, Miss Constance Martineau, received the guests in the Lord Mayor's Parlour—a spacious and beautiful room—with the most charming courtesy. The Lady Mayoress wore the artistically designed and finely jewelled chain recently presented by Alderman Clayton to the City Council for the use of the Lady Mayoress. Many leading citizens of Birmingham attended "to meet the members of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland" and appeared deeply interested in the Conference questions, especially in State Registration of Nurses.

Tea was served daintily on little tables, which were soon surrounded by groups of friends. Mr. Alfred Wooley's delightful Band discoursed very sweet music, which was evidently greatly appreciated, and it was quite six o'clock before many guests bid good-bye to their most kind host and hostess, and expressed to them their sense of deep obligation for the sympathetic recognition extended through them by the

municipality of Birmingham to the Nurses' Conference and Exhibition, and also for their own great personal kindness in taking part on three separate occasions in the functions of their annual Meeting, an honour they would never forget.

PLEASURE AT THE PICTURE HOUSE.

By invitation of the Directors of Messrs. Southall Bros. & Barclay—most of the best seats in the Picture House were reserved for members of the Conference, on the evening of the 10th inst. Sir Thomas and Lady Barclay, together with Mr. and Mrs. Barclay, acted as hosts, and light refreshments were abundantly provided. The films shown were very instructive and most amusing—a great relaxation after a strenuous day—and the graphic story of the old millionaire suffering from the darts of Eros, whose friend flew across the Atlantic in his air-ship, and all his adventures before he won his bet by returning in a few days from Europe with the innamorata aboard, was as fascinating as it was amusing. In the exuberance of his joy—the love-sick one exclaimed to his fair, "Choose what you will and it is yours!" Alas! her choice fell on the doughty abductor, who thus not only won his bet but his bride!

VISIT TO CHARFORD MILLS.

On Thursday, June 11th, at 2.45 p.m., a series of motor cars conveyed a merry party of over 100 people from the Central Hall to Charford Mills, at Saktley, Birmingham, where dressings are manufactured by thousands of tons for the world renowned firm of Messrs. Southall Bros. & Barclay, for delivery to all parts of the world.

Sir Thomas Barclay, with his son and daughter-in-law, welcomed everyone most warmly at the works, and sixteen guides were waiting to conduct the party over the factory. Cotton was first seen in the raw state as shipped from America and other countries, and many processes such as bleaching, washing, boiling, drying, and combing have to be gone through before the cotton wool is ready for sending to the various hospitals. Amongst many ingenious machines was a bobbin winder that allowed a certain pressure on the thread in order to find out weak spots.

It was most instructive to watch this same thread being converted later into bandage cloth, cut into six yard lengths, and finally rolled its full width, wrapped in paper, and cut into the required sizes.

One interesting operation was to watch the folding of yard wide gauze into half and quarter wide rolls, the result looking like huge bandages, but it is a particularly useful form to use from.

In one department sheets of what looked like blotting paper were quickly converted by an extremely powerful machine into a fluffy, slightly absorbent material, but actually composed of nothing but wood fibre.

In spite of special fans and vacuum tubes to withdraw the cotton fluff from the various rooms, we quickly became as if out in a snow

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