

present day when sorrow and suffering are everywhere around us." Our missionary friends gave us most interesting talks about their work. These talks made things so much more real to us all than reading about the places and people in magazines. They were one of the great privileges of "Camp." When we hear that one trained nurse or perhaps a nurse and a doctor are the only means of relieving suffering and disease in districts about the size of a quarter of England, dare we say that the need abroad is not pressing? Certainly the need at home is very great also, but there are many more to meet it.

With the free times during the day, we did as we each felt inclined. Those who were not so tired explored the country in all directions, while the more weary ones enjoyed themselves in camp chairs and had a proper "lazy" out in the fields, in the garden or on the verandah which is in front of one of the old barns. One afternoon we drove to Burnham Beeches; it was a glorious afternoon and everything looked lovely.

I must not forget to mention last Sunday morning at the Meeting House. Friends come from far and near to sit in silence and to wait upon God. Some of us joined them that morning and the whole atmosphere of the place seemed to be filled with an unseen Presence. It was very wonderful and we shall not soon forget it.

Now our happy holiday is over, but the strength received from it ought to carry us through many days of work for Him and His. We only wish that more nurses would come to "camp" and see for themselves what a really delightful holiday it is.

A MEMBER OF THE N.M.L.

THE IMPERIAL NURSES' CLUB.

A drawing-room meeting, to secure wider interest in the Imperial Nurses' Club, was held at Sunderland House, Mayfair, on Thursday, June 29th, by the kind permission of the Duchess of Marlborough. Lady Codrington occupied the chair.

Major-General Sir Alfred Turner, K.C.B., in eulogising our heroic men engaged in this war of liberation, implied that special courage and endurance were required to meet an enemy of so cruel and barbarous a nature. Admitting that the Empire owes her first deep debt of gratitude to her soldiers, he remarked with emphasis, the debt was secondly due to the nurses. It was difficult to believe, he said, that this beneficent institution (of trained nursing) did not exist fifty or sixty years ago.

After some amusing allusions to the classical examples of incompetence—Sarah Gamp and Betsy Prig—Sir Alfred referred to our great protagonist and her wonderful achievements in the Crimea, which led her afterwards to found Professional Nursing. He entirely approved of, and sympathised with the object of the meeting, and wished it success.

Major W. McAdam Eccles, M.S., F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C., T., gave a brief survey of the nurses of other countries, and compared them with our own, beginning at Berlin, which city he visited in 1912 for a two-fold purpose, namely, (1) to see the working of the Insurance Act, and (2) to see modern medical education: This latter he found to be excellent, especially on the side of science. In this respect German hospitals are good; but on the nursing side the speaker said he was very much struck with the backwardness of the system, more especially with the inadequacy in numbers. He instanced a hospital of 600 beds staffed by 42 nurses only. The Virchow Hospital, which is a memorial hospital to that great scientist three miles out of Berlin, contains 2,000 beds. The same inadequacy was observed. Major Eccles asked the surgeon how abdominal cases were nursed under these circumstances. The reply was that the convalescent patients looked after them!

Major Eccles gave unstinted praise to France and America. Returning to the more immediate subject of the meeting, he spoke with evident and pardonable pride in his own country, and his countrywomen. Within twenty-four hours of the declaration of war the Territorial Force Nursing Service had mobilised and the nurses were at their posts. According to military regulations, a hospital must contain 520 beds and be staffed by 90 nurses. This compares favourably with 42 nurses to 600 beds in a German hospital.

"The nurses have been a little bit overlooked," said the speaker. "Although our men deserve well of us," he added, "*so do the nurses.*" He considered the projected Imperial Nurses' Club was badly needed, both for the nurses of Great Britain and those of the Overseas Dominions. As Treasurer, he pleaded for funds. £5,000 was needed, and a tenth of that sum had already been subscribed. "Anything for the Nursing Profession must be good, therefore the Club must be a good one." The sum mentioned is required for initial expenses and general upkeep for two years. The Club is to be a social and not a residential one.

Lieut.-Colonel Nestor Tirard, M.D., F.R.C.P., R.A.M.C., proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Codrington for presiding, to the Duchess of Marlborough for so kindly lending her house, and to the speakers. Miss C. H. Mayers seconded, and a hearty response was given.

Miss Cox-Davies was also one of the speakers. She commended the scheme to the generosity of the public. A collection was taken, during which a lady musician played delightfully on the piano. The meeting then terminated.

I have before me the notes of what Dr. A. J. Rice-Oxley had intended to say if he had not been unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting. He is evidently all for making the Club as social as possible, so that the members can get away from work and worry and throw off restraint. His advice is that the nurses should be hampered with as few rules as possible, and he sounds a very necessary note of warning where our

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