

THE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON NURSING CONDITIONS.

The First Meeting of the "Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Conditions" appointed by the Minister of Health, was held on December 2nd, at the Ministry of Health in Room 29 on the second floor.

The members of the Committee, after discussion, were quite unable to decide whether health visitors and school nurses came within the terms of reference, and it was eventually agreed that the chairman should write to Lord Stanhope, President of the Board of Education, and Sir Kingsley Wood, the Minister of Health, who were jointly responsible for the setting up of the Committee, for their views.

Only four Registered Nurses have been appointed on the Committee of twenty-one persons, all members of one organisation although they do not represent it officially, and with the exception of Miss E. M. Musson, as a representative of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, can only express their own personal opinions.

Thus once more organised Nursing opinion is not available for the consideration of a Committee whose purpose is to prescribe recommendations with regard to recruitment, training, registration, terms and conditions of service of persons engaged in nursing the sick . . . for the purpose of maintaining an adequate service both for institutional and for domiciliary nursing.

The presumption that the modern Student Nurse or Registered Nurse will respond to the dictates of this unprofessional body of persons, the majority of whom know nothing of their actual conditions or convictions, is we feel sure foredoomed to a rude awakening.

We have invited the Minister of Health to amend the Constitution of his Committee, and to recognise that the time is now passed when the opinion of a profession of 80,000 persons can be treated with negligence, but he definitely refuses to accede to our rightful claim. To quote *The County Officers Gazette*: "If the nurses themselves would definitely refuse to give evidence before such a Committee, until it is considerably strengthened from their own point of view, the Minister might then appreciate that the problem is an acute and serious one, to be tackled in a proper manner, and chiefly by the nurses themselves."

BLACK'S MEDICAL DICTIONARY.

His Majesty the King has been pleased to accept the 100,000th copy of *Black's Medical Dictionary*. To mark the reaching of this total, on the publication of the fourteenth edition, copies were also presented to Sir Kingsley Wood, Minister of Health, and to Mr. Walter Elliot, Secretary of State for Scotland, who, like Dr. Comrie, the author of the *Dictionary*, is the possessor of Scottish medical degrees.

Messrs. Adam & Charles Black first published the *Dictionary* in 1906. Since then nineteen large impressions have been printed, and Dr. Comrie has revised it for fourteen new editions. From a crown 8vo. book of 850 pages, it has grown to a demy 8vo. volume of over 1,000 pages and 500 illustrations. This latest edition, revised to October 1937, incorporates the results of the most recent medical advances, and the latest available statistics.

This *Dictionary* should be invaluable to nurses, who frequently need information on particular diseases, or on treatments with which they are called upon to deal. They will find in it clearly and concisely stated the information they require. The *Dictionary*, the cost of which is 18s. net, should find a place in the Nurses' Libraries in hospitals, and on the bookshelves of nurses holding permanent posts, where it will be readily accessible and a most useful book of reference.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

Sydney Attains 150th Anniversary.

We are deeply interested in the 150th Anniversary Celebrations to take place in Sydney during the early months of 1938, in which, no doubt, the Australasian Nurses' Federation will play its part, and we shall read with pleasure reports associated with these historic events, in which many celebrated persons from Great Britain have been deputed to offer congratulations.

It was indeed a thrilling moment at the recent meeting of the International Congress of Nurses, held in London on Wednesday, July 21st, when "Australia" was welcomed into the "International," and from a large number of letters received from the Commonwealth we learn that our Sisters in Australia are deeply gratified that they are now associated with their colleagues throughout the world. We, of course, should have been deeply disappointed if the last of the great Dominions had not joined in the life time of the Founder. We have all to congratulate Miss Jane Bell, as it was mainly owing to her earnest and persuasive personality that the affiliation was made possible.

Miss Bell writes us: "After a delightful tour of the United States and Canada, with most interesting visits to many hospitals, my Australian colleagues and I reached Melbourne. You will be glad to hear that Australian nurses are delighted at being affiliated with the I.C.N. at last and have shown the deepest interest on hearing of the wonderful organisation and magnificent hospitality accorded to the visitors to the Congress in England.

"I have tried to convey to the younger generation all that you have done for our profession and feel sure that your example will be an inspiration to them. With many thanks on their behalf and my own for all your kindness and hospitality, and kindest regards to you all."

Miss Rosalind Stow, of North Adelaide, writes:—

"What a wonderful year it has been for our profession! and lucky were those nurses who were in London for July.

"I think the August *JOURNAL OF NURSING* just splendid. I did enjoy reading it, and we in Australia are very proud to now belong to the International Council of Nurses."

Miss May Ashton's letters from North Perth are always delightful, inspired by an Australian aroma; we share a love of flowers. With kindest greetings she tells us of the lovely flannel flowers which last for weeks in water. A huge bouquet of these flowers and others from Western Australia have been packed in ice and brought to England to be placed on the grave of Vancouver (the great explorer of the coast of Australia before 1800), at Petersham, Surrey. Nurses living near should make a visit to Vancouver's grave. Their colleagues in Western Australia would, we feel sure, be pleased to know how the flannel flowers have sustained their arctic journey.

The Finest Education in the World.

The finest education in the world results from world travel and the organisation of a tour for 25 girls through the Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women, provides a rare opportunity for those fortunate enough to join the party, which will start on April 8th and return July 23rd. The trip is to South Africa and Rhodesia. In announcing this tour Lady Meriel Talbot writes:—

"Each country of the Empire has its own particular character, its problems, its outlook. In South Africa this character and these problems are of special interest because of the presence there of the two white races and the vast native population; and this human drama has for its setting one of the most beautiful parts of the world."

A Unique Claim.

The annual report of the Grenfell Association of Great

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)