

tion by Her Majesty Queen Mary of the Chairman's portrait to Sir John Mann on behalf of the Nursing Staff, who consider themselves more than fortunate in still having him as their Chairman; this portrait by Mr. James Green has been hung in the hospital.

One great innovation at the London Hospital is that the Nursing Staff are now wearing coloured stockings! Miss Alexander remarking that everyone has become very conscious of their feet.

Many alterations are taking shape in the hospital which will add to the comfort and convenience of the Nursing Staff.

In the review, the Matron pays high tribute to the very excellent work carried on by her staff, who are maintaining the high standard set up there by their predecessors.

A GENERAL MEETING of the London Hospital League of Nurses has been arranged to take place on Saturday, June 10th next, when an interesting programme will be presented for the day.

NURSES IN THIS COUNTRY will wish to offer their sincere congratulations upon the Golden Anniversary of *The American Journal of Nursing*. Looking back, such names as Mary E. P. Davis, Isabel Hampton Robb, M. Adelaide Nutting, Harriett Fulmer, M. W. Stevenson, Sophia F. Palmer, Lavinia L. Dock, and others flit across our horizon, and each month, as we handle this journal, we realise more and more how wise were the nurses of the United States of America to support their national nursing paper for the benefit of their professional organisation, instead of allowing their great privileges to pass to lay publishing houses; and Ethel Gordon Fenwick never ceased to express her admiration of the professional wisdom of our colleagues across the sea in this fundamental course.

*The American Journal of Nursing* is always beautifully presented, illustrated and produced, and nurses on the other side of the Atlantic can be justly proud of their great achievement.

## The Passing Bell.

Dame Gladys Taylor, D.B.E., R.R.C.

NURSES will be grieved to hear of the death at the Westminster Hospital on January 11th, 1950, of Dame Gladys Taylor, the much revered past Matron-in-Chief of Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service.

Trained at University College Hospital, London, her name appeared in the King's Honours List as Dame Commander of the British Empire in 1948 upon her retirement from the Air Force Nursing Service to which she became its Matron-in-Chief in 1943.

At the cremation ceremony at Golders Green on January 16th, 1950, the Director-General of the Medical Services, Air Marshal P. C. Livingston, represented the R.A.F. medical services, and the Director-General of Personnel II, Air Vice-Marshal T. C. Traill, represented the R.A.F.

The Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Air, Sir James Barnes, has sent the following message to Dame Taylor's sister:

"The Air Council desire me to convey to you, on their behalf and on behalf of the Royal Air Force, their sincere sympathy on the death of your sister, who will long be remembered for her loyal and valuable services to Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service."

## The British College of Nurses, Ltd.

A MEETING of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held on Friday, January 20th, 1950, at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W. The President, Miss Helena McLoughlin, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., was in the Chair.

### Business Arising out of the Minutes.

The President reported the receipt of a letter from Miss May Ashton, M.B.C.N., Western Australia, conveying her warm thanks for gift from Council of the book "Their Finest Hour," and expressing her great admiration for the author—Mr. Winston Churchill.

Communications from the College Solicitor, concerning legal aid on behalf of a College Fellow, were further considered.

Many letters of appreciation for Christmas Cheer sent from the College were received.

### Election of Fellows and Members.

Applications for membership of the College were received and all the applicants were elected.

### Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was presented and adopted.

### Bring and Buy Sale.

The Bring and Buy Sale, to be organised in aid of funds towards the expenses of delegates to attend the next International Council of Nurses Congress, was further discussed, and a tentative date for the Sale to take place, it was agreed, be Saturday, October 7th, 1950.

The meeting then terminated.

At the close of the meeting, Fellows, Members, and their friends were received by the President and Council, when all adjourned to the Secretary's office where tea was served.

This was followed by a Lecture on "The English Novel," delivered by Mr. Francis Edwards.

## The English Novel.

THE history of the modern English Novel is the story of a slow and more or less fortuitous amalgamation of a variety of arts conceived to entertain and instruct a growing society. The arts of narrative, description, characterisation, and social observation which to-day combine to provide us with the unified and highly exacting form of art known as the novel were all contributed independently by practitioners of such various arts as those of the journalist, the satirist, the moralist, and the letter-writer. The story of this amalgamation, which is the theme of my lecture this afternoon, carries us over a period of time extending from the 1670s to the 1830s, i.e. from the time of John Bunyan to that of Charles Dickens.

It is in the work of Bunyan that we find the real tap root of the modern English Novel. Bunyan was the son of a tinker and for a number of years he followed the trade of his father. When, in 1675, he began to write the allegory of "The Pilgrim's Progress" he used much of his experience as a tinker for the theme of his narrative, and in so doing imparted to his work all that physical realism and sense of truth and sincerity which form the source of so much of the allegory's great charm and power. The spiritual story of Pilgrim is largely the physical story of a seventeenth-century tinker. The analogy is clear enough, for the lot of the tinker was a hard one, as was the lot of any itinerant in those days. He was a man cut off from society, physically and spiritually alone. He was poor with that extreme of poverty which makes every challenge grim, and every check a threat to existence. Given as an allegory, Bunyan's narrative represents the dual

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)