

dangerous and defeatist. "I don't think there is anything that can be done, the problem is too great." The reasons why this thought is the first to occur to one's mind are that it looks like the easiest way out for anyone who, having once seen these things, cannot help feeling them to be a burden on his conscience, and, that, in these days, one is frequently tempted to think of problems and of their possible solution only in grandiose terms: nothing short of relieving one entire country or at least a part of it, or a big mass of population, at a time.

Instead, the magnitude of the problem should lead one to a corresponding modesty in planning, but without defeatism. It is only when one thinks in terms of millions at a time that the problems of the kind I mention are really too big to be solved. But here one should think instead in terms of one knot to be tied at a time, like making a Persian carpet. It may take a life-time, perhaps longer, but this is the only hopeful approach. One village at a time, among a multitude of villages; the seed may spread, it may also dry up in the desert—this does not matter much—something, however small, something really constructive will have been done for one part of humanity that is suffering so much that it has not even the desire to rebel against its misery.

Of course, an approach of this kind needs apostles rather than public health administrators or specialists, or short-term consultants; but why should WHO not also engage apostles, if this is the right approach, and since this is really a problem affecting millions and millions of human beings?

### Infectious Hospitals Matrons' and Nurses' Association.

ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 1955, at 2.30 p.m., a meeting of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' and Nurses' Association was held at 38, Talgarth Mansions, London, W.14, upon the kind invitation of Miss Gertrude Sharpe.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and arising out of the minutes the President, Miss A. Ward, mentioned she had agreed to stand for election as a member of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales for the North-West Metropolitan Area.

It was agreed that this Association should again write to the Minister of Health to ask for an amendment to the Nurses Act, 1949, for an extra appointment to be allowed for a representative for Infectious Diseases comparable to those already enjoyed by the Sick Children's Nurses and Mental Nurses.

There were a number of regrets from members who were unable to be present, including Miss Harris who, in her letter, very kindly offered to now take over the Hon. Secretaryship, and we hope she will be able to do so from the next meeting which was then arranged for Friday, May 6th, 1955, if that date is convenient to Miss Harris, at Haymeads Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

Alternative days suggested as being convenient to most members being Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday.

Miss Bryson was happy to state there were a number of new members, bringing our membership back to 150, whilst Miss Phillips of Manchester is hoping for more members to join, also Miss Caldwell of Stockport has asked for a number of enrolment forms, so we hope for still more members by our next meeting.

Again the position of the Assistant Nurse was discussed, but we find it most difficult to discover any solution to the difficulties of the existing conditions.

There was also a discussion of the Ministry of Health pamphlet upon the Status and Training and Duties of the Sister Tutors. It was considered that the present suggestions are not helpful in retaining the fine reputation of the British nurses in their nursing.

Unfortunately, we feel that many senior members of the profession are very biased towards theory to the detriment of the practical, and fear that the present trend is not satisfactory.

The meeting terminated, and all those present enjoyed a delightful tea. A warm vote of thanks was proposed by Miss L. Clarke for Miss Sharpe's generous hospitality in her charming flat.

### Nursing Echoes.

#### Important Notice to State Registered Nurses.

IN VIEW OF the coming election of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, registered nurses are asked to notify at once to the offices of the Council 23, Portland Place, London, W.1, any change of permanent address.

Changes of address received later than *March 31st* cannot be taken into account for the purpose of the election, and ballot papers will be sent to the address held in the records of the Council at that date.

WE ARE DELIGHTED to receive from Miss May Ashton, S.R.N., a copy of "The Special Nursing Issue of the Royal Perth Hospital Journal," which bears inspiring evidence of the continued advance going forward of that splendid institution, which for 120 years has held the fair name of "Australian Nursing."

It is interesting to see the portrait of the Matron, Miss G. A. Siegele, S.R.N., F.C.N.A., who must be justly proud of the happy team-work among the staff—a marked feature of the Hospital.

We read that among the items of historical interest now treasured by the Royal Perth Hospital there is a brick taken from the house (10, South Street, London, W.1) which was Miss Nightingale's home from 1865 to 1910, and a piece of notepaper bearing the handwriting and signature of Florence Nightingale herself.

It interests us very much to observe among the illustrations one of the statuette of "The Lady of the Lamp" by Miss Gertrude Knoblock which was presented to the Hospital in 1936 by Miss May Ashton, ex-trainee of the Royal Perth Hospital.

To read of their many activities is to realise how progressive are our Australian colleagues in their keen pursuit of the true spirit of service.

WE OFFER OUR congratulations to Sister Alice J. Mattinson upon her appointment as Matron of the King Edward Memorial Hospital, Perth. Sister Mattinson was awarded a Florence Nightingale Memorial Scholarship and studied for the Diploma of Hospital Administration and Teaching and Nursing Obstetrics at the Post-Graduate School of Nurses, Wellington, New Zealand.

THE MEETING OF The London Hospital League of Nurses, will be held on May 7th, at 3 p.m. The programme for the morning starts at 10.30 a.m. with a talk by Captain H. Brierley, O.B.E., M.C., House Governor, on the changes which have taken place in the Administration of the Hospital, and something of future plans. Following this there will be a Demonstration.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)