

## Reports of Meetings.

A large and representative gathering of the members of the R.B.N.A.—about 200 being present, with Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH in the chair—took place at Hanover Square, on the 20th ult., to hear Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK read her paper on "Nursing at the World's Fair," which was published *in extenso*, recently, in this journal. A most interesting display of Nursing articles for exhibition were artistically arranged. But I will refrain from further description, as I am glad to announce that Mrs. FENWICK has consented to give us a reliable and exhaustive description of the exhibits—which will be sent to Chicago, this week, for the British Nursing Section—when the Section is complete.

After the paper was read, Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH cordially invited discussion upon it, and went on to say that his own ideas might be old-fashioned, and perhaps not in harmony with the age. But he thought it would be a sad day when women began to do men's work in the world, as it was quite certain men could not do women's (applause). At present, no idea could be formed of the potentiality of the educated woman, because hitherto she had not existed. But, of late, the advance of women's work had been enormous, and must have surprised those who held the old notion of man's superiority. Women, in the past, had been fully occupied in being good mothers, good sisters, and good daughters (and how many women, working early and late for dear life, would not enjoy the luxury of fulfilling these admirable duties if they could afford to do so?) The best part of women's work was done unseen, and could not be put in a glass case. Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH said that they all knew Mrs. FENWICK, her devotion to her profession, her wonderful powers of organization, her untiring energy, and he thought the meeting would agree with him that it was a matter of sincere congratulation that the British Nursing section was in such good hands. (Loud Applause.)

Miss ISLA STEWART asked in what way Mrs. FENWICK considered the theoretical training of American Nurses better than that given to English Nurses.

Mrs. FENWICK then gave explanations which Dr. GAGE BROWN subsequently described as of equal interest to the paper she had read. She stated that in the leading American Hospitals a Nurse's education was well defined. Entering a Hospital as a probationer, she was taught her duties on systematic lines, and was not left, as

so many young Nurses in this country are, to "pick up" what knowledge they can in the Wards. In the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore, it is the duty of the Head Nurses, and a duty which is superintended, to *teach* the pupil Nurses—who are also instructed in Anatomy and Physiology by the medical staff. They are also taught by the Home Sister, in classes, the best method of making all the necessary appliances, such as splint padding, etc. This Home Sister (who has no housekeeping duties) also daily observes the practical work of the junior Nurses in the wards. By this means it is ascertained that the trainers give the necessary practical instruction, which is considered by the managers one of their most important duties. Then each Probationer has to pass a definite time in each department of the Hospital—being at one time on what is termed "chart duty;" meaning that she is responsible for every chart in her ward, temperature, pulse, respiration, diet and treatment being inscribed, and a special table being supplied in the ward for her convenience. By this means, the charts are kept in exquisite order, and the Probationer gains large practical experience in these details of a Nurse's duty. Another duty is termed "kitchen duty" where, for a term, the Nurse is placed in charge of the ward kitchen, and has, under the Sister's supervision, to distribute each article of diet given to the patients, and she has thus to acquaint herself with the diet prescribed for each patient. During a term of "kitchen duty," the Nurse is responsible for the cleanliness and order of this department. All the rough work, cleaning, polishing, sweeping, etc., is done by orderlies and ward-maids.

Mrs. FENWICK strongly advocated the system of teaching Probationers invalid cooking, and spoke most highly of the "diet kitchens" in connection with St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago, and that attached to the Johns Hopkins Hospital. During her visit to the latter Institution, her breakfast was brought to her room by a Nurse who, upon inquiry, told her that it had been prepared in the "diet kitchen" by her own hands—a saucer of porridge and cream, an omelette, crisp fried bacon, "biscuits" (warm soda rolls), grapes, and coffee. This, moreover, was served in the most appetising manner. The "diet kitchen" at the Johns Hopkins is presided over by a lady cook, who instructs the Probationers in rotation (during a course of six weeks) in the theory and practice of invalid cookery. Here all the beef tea for the whole Hospital is made, and all delicacies ordered for the very sick, prepared and served. Here Mrs. FENWICK saw chickens boned, jointed, and dressed, meat

---

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

---

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)