

Also present were Miss Poon Sin Ho from Hongkong who has won a British Red Cross Florence Nightingale Scholarship, and Doctor and Mrs. Sharif from Pakistan. Mrs. Sharif is also staying at Florence Nightingale House, benefiting by a British Commonwealth Scholarship.

During the proceedings the Chairman outlined the details of the coming Ball. She mentioned tentatively that the unambitious target was a mere £600, but that any surplus to the target would be doubly welcomed. Tickets would be £2 10s. 0d each, including dinner, dancing and cabaret, which could be obtained from the Hon. Secretary of the Ball Committee, County of London Branch, B.R.C.S., 6 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1. (SLOane 9151).

Excellent prizes were being offered for programmes with lucky numbers, and a Tombola was being arranged. Gifts for the Tombola were heartily welcomed—forty-eight had been received—but four hundred or so were required. Anything from a reel of cotton to magnums of champagne were welcome. Generous gifts were promised during the course of the evening for the Tombola.

Everybody knows of the many wonderful, humanitarian works of the British Red Cross Society. In war, pestilence, major calamities; floods, earthquakes and other devastating accidents, the British Red Cross with its world renowned little flags and indefatigable workers—moves into the front line and performs its heroic tasks. Without the Red Cross—the world would be a poorer, colder and less lovable place in which to live. It needs your generous support, so please—buy a ticket for the Ball or send a gift for the Tombola, or send a donation—however small!! In so doing you will materially help one of the greatest Services known to mankind.

G. M. H.

## The Royal Sanitary Institute.

### Presentation to Retiring Secretary

AT A LUNCHEON given by the Council in his honour at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, on October 14th, Dr. J. W. Dudley Robinson, who will be retiring at the end of this year, was presented with an inscribed silver rose bowl and a cheque on behalf of the Fellows, Members and Associates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as a token of their appreciation of his eminent service as Secretary of the Institute since 1928. Dr. Robinson has also been Secretary of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board since 1928 and of the National Nursery Examination Board since its formation in 1945.

Dr. Robinson ranks as one of the leading administrators of learned societies, and has played an essential part in the Royal Institute's work of promoting the health of the people. Since he came to the Royal Institute from the secretaryship of the Institution of Municipal Engineers, he has been responsible for much of its successful development. In 1936 he attended the South African Branch Conference at Cape Town and made an extensive tour of Africa. Consequent on this tour he was responsible for the preparation of schemes for establishing museums of hygiene in Cape Town, Accra, Zanzibar and Singapore. Some years earlier he had directed the re-organisation of the Parkes Museum of Hygiene. During this period he also re-organised the Royal Institute's library for which he acquired many rare works.

Dr. Robinson undertook the executive work in establishing the National Nursery Examination Board, formed at the request of the Ministries of Health and Education; and of the Examination in Nutrition in Relation to Catering and Cooking, established at the request of the English Group of the Nutrition Society. He was also concerned with the administration of the funds of the Model Abattoir Society and of the National Health Society, after they were wound up and their assets transferred to the Royal Institute, the funds of the first-named providing for the Institute's annual Benjamin Ward Richardson Lecture.

In addition to organising the annual Health Congresses of the Royal Sanitary Institute, which are attended by upwards of 2,000 delegates, he also organised a number of special conferences—notably on the Midwives Act in 1936, and on the administration of the Milk (Special Designations Order) in the same year.

During his service with the Royal Sanitary Institute, Dr. Robinson has been responsible for its examination system under which some 68,000 candidates have been examined. In the same period, the membership of the Royal Institute increased from 4,700 to well over 9,500. In 1950 he was appointed an Officer of the Ordre de la Santé Publique by the President of the French Republic.

## N.A.P.T.

The National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis is arranging a meeting for Nurse Teachers in Cardiff, on Saturday, 15th November, 1952, at 2.30 p.m. By kind permission of Dr. J. Greenwood Wilson, Medical Officer of Health, City of Cardiff, the meeting will be held at "Preswylfa," Clive Road, a hostel for children receiving B.C.G. vaccination and a centre for tuition and demonstration in the administration of B.C.G. vaccine.

Professor F. R. G. Heaf, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., will take the Chair and Dr. T. F. Jarman, Medical Director, Mass Radiography Service, Cardiff, will speak on the "Rhondda Fach Survey." There will also be an opportunity to see round the hostel and the meeting will be followed by tea.

## Extracts from

### "The Story of San Michele."

By Axel Munthe.

*Presented to us by A. R. B.*

ALL THAT IS REALLY USEFUL to us can be bought for little money, it is only the superfluous that is put up for sale at a high price. All that is really beautiful is not put up for sale at all but is offered as a gift by the immortal gods. We are allowed to watch the sun rise and set, the clouds sailing along in the sky, the forests and the fields, the glorious sea, all without spending a penny. The birds sing to us for nothing, the wild flowers we may pick as we are walking along by the roadside. There is no entrance fee to the starlit hall of the night.

The poor man sleeps better than the rich man. Simple food tastes in the long run better than food from the Ritz. Contentment and peace of mind thrive better in a small country cottage than in the stately palace in a town. A few friends, a few books, indeed a very few, and a dog is all you need to have about you as long as you have yourself. But you should live in the country. The first town was planned by the Devil, that is why God wanted to destroy the tower of Babel.

"Like children in the trackless forest we grope our way through our lives in blissful ignorance of what is going to happen to us from one day to another, what hardships we may have to face, what more or less thrilling adventures we may encounter before the great adventure, the most thrilling of all, the Adventure of Death. Now and then in our perplexity we venture to put a timid question to our destiny, but we get no answer, for the stars are too far away. The sooner we realise that our fate lies in ourselves and not in our stars, so much the better for us. Happiness we can only find in ourselves, it is a waste of time to seek for it from others, few have any to spare. Sorrow we have to bear alone as best we can, it is not fair to have to shift it on to others, be they men or women. We have to fight our own battles and strike as hard as we can, born fighters as we are. Peace will come one day for all of us, peace without dishonour even to the vanquished if he has tried to do his bit as long as he could."

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