

Christmas Cheer.

Gifts of Christmas cheer to Fellows and Members were considered and agreed.

The meeting then terminated.

A Distinguished Colleague.

To contact in the flesh our distinguished colleague Miss Ethel Gray, C.B.E., R.R.C., Croix de Guerre, on the occasion of her visit to the British College of Nurses, Ltd., stirred more than ever our deep sense of gratitude for the unparalleled generosity over the years shown by her colleagues and the Australian people to the Old Country in our time of peril.

Miss Gray's visit on November 27th to see the History Section of the College, which includes much of Nightingaliana, caught her keen perception of professional values, and consequently nothing must prevent other friends from also having the privilege of seeing this historical collection; so we had the pleasure of welcoming a little contingent of guests marshalled by herself to our headquarters a few days later.

A happy occasion which, by the way, brought interesting conversation over the tea cups, on conditions common to us all, and of the great Dominion of Australia, long to be remembered.

As, alas! Miss Gray is about to take leave of these shores—we salute her in the knowledge that our loss is her country's gain.

Lecture.

A Lecture by H. L. Bryant Peers, Esq., F.R.G.S., has been arranged for Friday, 15th February, 1952, at 3 p.m., at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on THE GREAT EXHIBITION 1851, with lantern slides.

We do hope Fellows and Members will make a special effort to hear this outstanding Lecturer and Research Historian.

The friends of Fellows and Members will also be welcome, and tea will be served at the close of the Lecture.

History Section.

WE WOULD REMIND our Fellows and Members that our History Section in which there is most interesting data on Nursing History from earliest times to the present day, which also includes our unique collection of "Nightingaliana" from blue books to original letters of that great genius Florence Nightingale.

These exhibits are still on view to give Fellows, Members and their friends an opportunity of seeing this wonderful collection when visiting the College.

British Surgical Team to Visit Yugoslavia.

A BRITISH surgical team led by Mr. C. Price Thomas, surgeon to Westminster and Brompton hospitals, will leave London on Saturday, January 27th, to visit Yugoslavia for two weeks to lecture on and give practical demonstrations of the surgical treatment of tuberculosis. The visit is sponsored by the British Medical Association and the British Council. The Yugoslav government, at whose request the visit has been arranged, will be their hosts in Yugoslavia.

The other members of the team are Dr. Robert Machray, anaesthetist at Westminster and Brompton hospitals, and Mr. Peter Jones, Registrar at Brompton Hospital, who will be responsible for post-operational care.

The necessary drugs and complete surgical equipment down to the smallest detail, have been sent in advance to Belgrade where the first demonstrations will be given. The team will also go to Zagreb and to Golnik, near Sarajevo, the biggest centre for the treatment of tuberculosis in Yugoslavia. Mr. Price Thomas will also lecture in Belgrade for the British Medical Association.

A Red Letter Day.

DECEMBER 12TH, 1951, WAS INDEED, and will remain, a Red Letter Day for the Nursing Staff of the Fountain Hospital, Tooting Grove, London.

The very first Prize Giving took place on that day, so chosen because the heroic Nurse Edith Cavell started her training at that hospital 55 years before on December 12th.

The Fountain Hospital, as most of our readers know, is now a Home for Mentally Handicapped Children, where they are lovingly tended, and trained as much as their mental capacity will allow.

Miss Edith A. Bell, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.N.M.D., R.M.P.A. Cert., appointed to the position of Matron in 1948, has endeavoured to bring her institution up-to-date, and encourage her staff in their very arduous duties.

The ceremony took place in the School Hall, gaily decorated with flowers and adorned by decorations made most artistically by fingers of some of the children. A small orchestra entertained the guests until the time came for the opening of the proceedings.

Matron welcomed her guests and introduced her Guest of Honour for the day, Mrs. B. A. Bennett, Principal Nursing Officer to the Ministry of Labour, who had accepted the invitation to present the prizes.

Beautiful flowers were presented to Mrs Bennett and to Matron by members of the Nursing Staff, and the efficient looking Male Tutor was also to be seen on the platform. Looking back through 33 years, the following awards were made:—

Group 1.—All nurses who trained at the Fountain Hospital and are still members of the staff, received a badge.

Group 2.—Miss H. Allen, assistant matron, was presented with a badge in token of long service.

Group 3.—Students who had qualified received badges and certificates: Miss M. Isaacs, Miss M. Frawley, Miss L. Ricks, Miss E. Leyden, Miss J. Doidge.

Group 4.—Preliminary students: Miss B. Staples, Miss E. Jones, Mr. T. Crowther, Miss R. Bogdanova, Miss M. Kelly, Mrs. J. Dixon, Miss C. Sullivan, Miss N. Lynch, Mrs. A. Mark, Miss P. Henry.

At the conclusion of the Prize-Giving, Mrs. Bennett addressed the audience of nurses in very smart new uniforms and their friends, and explained that the badge of the Hospital has been appropriately designed showing a boy with a tortoise on his back.

She advised the nurses to try and get in touch with nurses of General and other hospitals and form study and discussion groups, from which association, mutual benefit would be gained.

She also suggested that by joining with the Mental Nurses Association they might, by affiliation, become members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

At the conclusion of her address Mrs Bennett presented Matron with a medal struck in honour of Dr. Marie Depage and Miss Edith Cavell for the great work they accomplished in Belgium during the 1914-1918 War.

This medal had been donated to Mrs. Bennett by Mlle. Bihet, the Directrice of the Edith Cavell School of Nursing in Brussels, but Mrs. Bennett thought that the Fountain Hospital had the real right to the medal by its early connections with Edith Cavell.

After the Physician-Superintendent, Dr. L. T. Hilliard, had ended the proceedings, the company adjourned to a delicious Tea served by members of the Nursing Staff; and thus ended a momentous day in the history of the Hospital.

M.R.A.

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