

a distinction enjoyed by other Professions. Alas, by the decree of our Governing Body, the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, this signal right has been abolished, and a manuscript Register kept only at Headquarters from where information required can be ascertained at considerable inconvenience.

This instead of a live Register which Ethel Gordon Fenwick had visualised is now dead; the 2s. 6d. annual retention fee was to enable the General Nursing Council to know whether or no the nurse was still alive; now, the consolidated fee paid dispenses with this. Under the present system it is not known whether a nurse is alive or not.

The Founder's reason for the retention fee was because she knew the Central Midwives Board had difficulties in keeping a live Register.

Consequently, in the recognition of semi-trained nurses by the State, the laity cannot be blamed for thinking S.E.A.N. (State Enrolled Assistant Nurse) is an extra qualification, and explains why she is taking the place of the fully trained nurse in many instances.

In this Address, I send a Call to all nurses to play the game, defend their rights of Professional Independence and maintain loyalty in this Cause at all times.

We must attack all conditions which lower the Matron's prestige; she should be allowed to visit and supervise all departments; why else did she take all the necessary steps to become a Matron or Mother as the term means? Her staff should be adequate and well qualified.

Nurses should be taught that the patient's comfort is an essential factor of their treatment, which includes toileting, sleep and diet.

Older nurses on retirement should be provided with an adequate pension, especially those who were retired before 1948. These nurses, who endured the burden of lower salaries and longer hours, should, without delay be remunerated in a measure comparable to the present high cost of living.

The New Testament says—"There is a 'Gift of Healing' to assist us in our work." This is a wonderful power waiting to be used for the asking.

My Challenge to the Nursing World is this:—

To raise again the banner of our Pioneers—Florence Nightingale and Ethel Gordon Fenwick.

The best is not good enough, we must go the extra mile and, with God's help we shall once more be a Profession, second to none in kindness, gentleness and service to our fellow men.

Yours sincerely,  
MABEL CHRISTINA BARBER.

In a large amount of correspondence considered, the President stressed the splendid movement at present going forward in the founding of "short stay" homes for mental defectives. Nevertheless, it was agreed and greatly regretted that the Royal Commission, appointed to enquire into the certification and detention of mental defectives, does not include an experienced nurse or matron. It was decided to further consider the matter.

Letter of thanks for financial help was received, and communications of warm appreciation came from recipients abroad of the Xmas Greetings—in the Royal Booklet—which delights so many.

The financial statement was reported.

#### Election of Fellows and Members.

Applications for membership were received and all were elected.

#### Date of next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Friday, 9th April, at 2.30 p.m.

The meeting then terminated.

## Book Reviews.

### Medical Terms.\*

By Ffrangcon Roberts, M.A., M.D., F.F.R.

THIS IS MORE than a dictionary; a reference book with interesting explanation of the origin of words and construction.

It should enable the reader to deduce the derivation of most of the words he is likely to meet. It gives excellent "verbal pictures," illustrating ideas concerning disease, also index on words, subject and pharmaceutical abbreviations.

\* Published by William Heinemann, Medical Books, Ltd., 99, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1. Price 6s. net.

### Masters of Medicine.\*

By Harley Williams.

A FASCINATING HISTORY of medical research and experiment, reminding us of some of the great pioneers.

We are apt to forget that but for the work and courage of men and women of the last century (and before), we could not have the knowledge we have today. How much more difficult it was for them, than for our generation with all the modern facilities. Perhaps this interesting story is more suitable for the lay reader than the student, but most enjoyable reading for all who are interested in the great men of their century. We are back to the cheap editions within the reach of the slenderest purse, price 2s. 6d. Never judge a book by its cover!

\* Published by Pan Books, Ltd., 8, Headfort Place, London, S.W.1.

### The Health Information Digest, Vol. 1, No. 1.

A PUBLICATION by the Central Council of Health Education. This half-yearly Digest gives us the latest news of current affairs in Medicine and Health. In these days of rapid progress up-to-date information in this form is most acceptable for us all, apart from those in administrative posts.

The information is from many and varied sources, and makes interesting reading, and is an excellent reference book. Obtainable from the Council offices or leading booksellers 2s. 6d., or annual subscription 5s. post free. D.B.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for Prevention of Tuberculosis announces the publication of an important new work:

#### TUBERCULOSIS IN CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE

By F. J. Bentley, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., Senior Physician, and S. Grzybowski, M.D., M.R.C.P., Senior Registrar, High Wood Hospital for Children, Brentwood, Essex; and B. Benjamin, B.Sc., F.I.A., formerly Statistician, London County Council. There is a Preface by Sir Robert Young, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., and a Foreword by Wilfrid Sheldon, C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.

This must surely be the first major project of clinical research arising from the National Health Service since the new scheme for decentralised research was set out in 1953. In point of fact the present study was commenced shortly after the National Health Service was inaugurated, although final arrangements for decentralised research have only recently been promulgated.

The work is based on an experience of over 1,000 children treated in sanatorium and followed up for an average period of six years. A special investigation into the clinical and pathological details surrounding the deaths from tuberculosis of 100 unselected London children is also included, and this reveals the extent to which death from this disease in childhood may be preventable.

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