

As in this country, Nursing Schools developed slowly and painfully. The nurses of those earlier days worked ceaselessly for little more than the right to live and work. They were exploited and inarticulate because they were not organised. In the 1890s, after the World Fair in Chicago in 1893, the foundations of national standards and the administration of Nurse training schools were laid. The move for the higher education of nurses was also set afoot. Those earlier American nursing schools did not quite follow the lines laid down by Florence Nightingale, as in the earlier training schools of this country, but there was certainly a good deal of similarity of detail. American schools of nursing took an absolutely national individuality, and their nursing organisations are quite different in content and tone from those of Great Britain. The education of American Nurses gradually became more academic than practical, and the nursing schools more closely associated with the universities, until now many of the larger nursing schools are accepted as departments of the universities and their student nurses are undergraduates of those universities.

Miss Roberts writes with an unbounded knowledge of the numerous North American nursing organisations and with a true and dramatic sense of history on the progress of American nursing through two world wars and the direct result of these wars on nursing in America. There is no doubt that her book will be accepted as a classic in Nursing history in her own country, where it will appeal to every intelligent and well-educated nurse. But in this country also it should meet with tremendous enthusiasm, for the history of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation and International Organisations of Nursing are truthfully and justly outlined. She gives honour where honour is due and publicly acknowledges the American nurses' debt to Florence Nightingale, Mrs. Ethel Bedford Fenwick and other illustrious British Nurses. With understandable national pride she also gives vivid pen pictures of famous American Nurses such as Miss Hampton, Miss Nutting and Miss L. Dock, etc., which make for glorious reading.

For many years Miss Roberts enjoyed a unique position among American Nurses, and from her vantage point as Editor of that world-famous Nursing Journal, *The American Journal of Nursing*, she was able to view world nursing politics with a clear and discerning eye; and she was gifted to write an account of them for posterity with an amazing correctness and unbiased detachment.

I feel acutely that it is not for such as me to commend this wonderful nursing history to the nurses of the world, even though I have the temerity to do so. I can only stand from afar off in wonder and admiration at this lavishly gifted American Nurse, who is also a literary genius and has accomplished a classical history of nursing in her own country and times.

G. M. H.

* Published by the Macmillan Company, 60, Fifth Avenue, New York II, N.Y. Price \$6.

A Handbook for Mental Nurses.*

Published in Conjunction with the Royal Medico-Psychological Association.

THIS REPRINT will be found extremely valuable by nurses and students.

It contains a clear description of anatomy and physiology of the nervous system, details of mental illness with modern treatment; at the end is a very helpful glossary of unusual and technical terms.

This fascinating book provides a wealth of information for those who are interested in mental nursing and should find a place in every nurse's library.

The editor and all who have contributed to this edition are to be congratulated for such an interesting publication.

M. W.

* Published by Baillière Tindall & Cox, Ltd., 7 & 8, Henrietta Street, London, W.C.2. Price 21s.

Have you a Scrap Book ?

MISS MACKELLAR, Matron of "Moorfields" writes to us:—

In an old-family scrap-book which was handed over to me in recent years, are many beautiful pieces of prose and poetry, also a great number of Baxter prints and some of my ancestors' drawings and paintings. The lines I cherish most are those written by an old weaver who roamed the hills of Galloway. He was a great and kindly character and though entirely self-taught, was known as a man of great learning and was frequently called upon to speak at various "Kirks" and by the Dominies to speak to children of all ages in the schools. Perhaps my affection for his memory is due to the fact that my Mother related many kindly incidents about the weaver making the listeners feel that they knew and loved him without ever having met. The following are the lines to which I refer:—

An Appeal to the Uneducated

Go to the sons of labour, and inspire
Their sluggish souls with intellectual fire.
Teach them to think and thinking, to explore
A glorious realm unknown to them before.
Give them the eyes of knowledge, to behold
The wonderous things which science can unfold.

Teach them to feel the beauty and the grace
Which breathe unceasingly from Nature's face.
The purity of Spring's delicious morn,
When pleasant sounds and mingled sweets are born
The silent splendour of a Summer's noon,
When earth is sleeping in the lap of June.

The gorgeous hues of Autumn's evening hour,
Corn in the fields and fruitage in the bower.
The night of Winter, whose vast flag unfurled
Is gemmed with stars—and every star a world!
From there, the mind will wing its way above
To Him, the soul of harmony and love!

Signed (From the pen of the weaver).

Miss MacKellar suggests that there may be many other members who own scrap-books which have belonged to their families, and may have something of interest, which we could all share or enjoy reading, if sent to the Editor for print.

Artists in Nursing.

DURING THE FEW WARM days this year, one was able to observe, at a seaside resort, children in great numbers, eagerly using their spades and buckets digging into the sand.

There appeared no inducement or result other than amusement and childish satisfaction. Further along the sands, however, one observed the children who did have imagination, and produced not only meaningless heaps of sand, but something of design and artistry in their digging and building.

Nursing gives an even greater scope, because the material for artistry and design is always with us, regardless of the time of year. Our tools may vary in number, but the good artist in nursing, designs her training and experience to meet with all emergencies and to understand all types of problems.

Competitive nursing has its useful influence, it helps to encourage good work, it stimulates thought and inspires the desire to give only of one's best. But to understand the existing very real problems which are "peculiar" to each hospital, according to the geographical position and size of the hospital, the type of patient nursed therein, and the establishment and available nurses to meet the needs of patients and requirements of training, nursing design must include a wide knowledge of the working conditions in a variety of such hospitals, including local—suburban and provincial, which will result in understanding and dexterity

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)