

are well known as leading and influential medical men and as Matrons of important Metropolitan Hospitals. The members obtain their own earning, less 7½ per cent. commission to cover the cost of the working expenses; and the sweating system hitherto in vogue will undoubtedly suffer a serious blow from the popularity which this co-operation of Nurses will assuredly receive. Medical men who obtain these first-class workers, on the other hand, will find that they are admirable subordinates, and that they have in these Nurses, for the first time, women who are under direct professional control—who have characters to lose, and whose loyalty, efficiency, and knowledge may therefore be equally relied upon. We feel that the Registered Nurses' Society is certain to obtain the large amount of professional support which it so thoroughly deserves, and that it will abolish many of the disadvantages which have hitherto counterbalanced the obvious benefits of the assistance of trained Nurses."

Another criticism to be found in the weekly journal edited by a member of the Committee of the Nurses' Co-operation, we may ignore, as his malice against Registered Nurses has become monotonous, and we feel quite sure that our fellow-workers on that excellent Co-operation—the pioneer society, we must bear in mind—will resent this untruthful and puerile animus much more earnestly than we need do. For our part, we may regard it as gratuitous advertisement.

Next week I hope to say a few words upon the PRINCIPLE of our Society, as I rejoice to find it has influenced so many of our members in joining our ranks; many of them having left the certainty of remunerative work for what might have been, at first, regarded as an uncertainty, and I feel sure that it is the inspiration of this admirable courage which is laying so sure a foundation for the great future and present success of the Registered Nurses' Society.

"MATRONA."

## National Health Society.

GROSVENOR HOUSE MEETING.



"Don't forget a full description of the ladies' marvellous rose hats," remarked a well-known London physician to the writer of this Report as he made his way to where she was biting her pencil preparatory to taking the necessary jottings in her note-book.

Seen from the platform there appeared a regular phalanx of flowers, chiefly pink and red, a veritable rose garden transplanted into the Rubens' Gallery of Grosvenor House on the afternoon of June 7th, when the Annual Meeting of the National Health Society was held under the presidency of the Duke of Westminster. The colours of the season are truly marvellous, but, undoubtedly, they do much to relieve the proverbial sombreness of an English crowd.

The platform was not without its flowers, both human and natural. H.R.H. Princess Christian brought a beautiful bouquet of pink and red, which had been presented on her arrival by the Duke of Westminster's little daughter, Lady M. Grosvenor. Master Teddie Priestley, a charming little fellow in a sailor suit, in his turn offered a bouquet of carnations to the Duchess of Westminster.

The Princess wore a black moiré mantle trimmed with butter lace; the Duchess had a black moiré gown with sleeves and trimmings of maroon velvet, her two little girls sitting by her side in artistic loose dresses of soft striped silk. On the platform were the Duchess of Bedford, Lady Priestley, Miss Lankester, Sir Henry Roscoe, and many others of note.

The proceedings opened with the presentation of a gold medal, given by the Society, to the Princess Christian, in recognition of the service she has rendered to the cause of Health. The Duke gracefully called attention to the fact that the Princess is herself an accomplished Nurse; and Mr. Ernest Hart reminded the audience of the fact that she has translated from the German a book of Esmarch's on "First Aid." Dr. Thorne Thorne, of the Local Government Board, Mr. Arthur Acland, of the Devon County Council, Sir Henry Roscoe, Sir James Crichton-Browne, and other speakers testified to the great work the Society is doing in spreading a knowledge of the Laws of Health. All the speakers agreed that the teaching of Hygiene is essentially woman's work. Sir J. Crichton-Browne said that women are the first line of defence against the attacks of disease.

Mr. Spooner, Organising Secretary of the Beds County Council, told a story of his being caught in a severe rainstorm, and of his taking refuge in a small cottage. The woman of the house, after some little conversation, asked, "Aren't you the gent wot sends them Lady Lecturers about?" On his admitting the fact, she said: "Well, send some more of 'em!" She went on to tell how her husband had broken his leg in the garden, and how, thanks to the knowledge she had gained at the lectures given by a N.H.S. teacher, she was enabled to have him carried properly, and to apply restraining splints until the arrival of the doctor, who lived some miles off. Mr. Spooner said that in the straw plaiting district of Beds, the lady lecturers had worked a wonderful moral salvation among the girls and women.

Her Royal Highness then presented the medals, certificates, and prizes to the pupils of the N.H.S., representing the ladies who have attended drawing-room classes, among whom the Duchess of Bedford and Mrs. Jopling-Rowe, figured as certificate receivers, the students of the training courses held at Berners Street, and very many girls and women who have passed the examinations held at the many centres

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