

She had also collected some information as to the working of the Victorian Order of Nurses in Canada. She had been impressed by the fact that the visiting nurses of America have struck a wider and higher note than those in this country, not only with regard to their duty as nurses, but also as citizens. "We must," she said, "educate the woman as well as the nurse if we wish to make her a power in the land." She spoke of the name of Miss Florence Nightingale as one to conjure with in America.

The next speaker was Miss S. B. McGahey, introduced as "the Matron of the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, Hon. Secretary of the Trained Nurses' Association of Australasia, and without doubt the leader of nursing thought and progress in Australia."

Miss McGahey spoke of Australian Nurses as a fine body of women, in sympathy with progressive movements and quick to understand and take up ideas. The Hospitals and nursing Homes were in many instances very fine, the three years standard of training was the rule, and at the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, a fourth year was required, in which the pupils received instruction in house-keeping, dispensing and maternity nursing. Proficiency in practical work was essential before a pupil could obtain her certificate, but theoretical work was also required. An eight hours day had not yet been attained, as the size of the Nurses' Homes did not so far permit of the necessary increase of the nursing staff. Miss McGahey then described the foundation in 1899 of the Australasian Trained Nurses Association which had already done good work in defining a standard of nursing education. The Government of New South Wales now asks the heads of hospitals to submit to it the names and qualifications of likely candidates for appointments as matrons of hospitals, and these qualifications are required to be in conformity with the standard laid down by the Nurses' Association. Miss McGahey spoke cordially of the courtesy of her reception in America and said how pleased she would be at any time to welcome any members of the Society of American Women in London at the Prince Alfred Hospital if they visited New South Wales.

Mrs. Arthur Fay then proposed in the happiest terms a cordial vote of thanks to the Delegates, who she said the Society was proud to have as its guests, which was seconded and carried by acclamation. The meeting then terminated, and the guests enjoyed the graceful hospitality of the Society to the sweet strains of Arthur Wellesley's Viennese Band which played charmingly and added much to the pleasure of the occasion. The scene was a bright and animated one, and the tasteful costumes of the American women and their guests were much admired, many bright and beautiful gowns having been donned for the occasion. Mrs. Webster Glynes was a delightful hostess, while the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Defries, and Mrs. Arthur Fay, Chairman of the Executive Committee, kindly and courteous, were indefatigable in their efforts for the care of the guests. These were far too numerous to mention but we may say

that other Delegates to the Congress present besides those who spoke were Miss Emilie Waind, Delegate of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses, and Miss Sophia Cartwright, Delegate of the Registered Nurses Society. We also noticed Miss Gordon, Matron of St. Thomas' Hospital, Miss Rogers, Matron of the Leicester Infirmary, Miss Rosalind Paget of the Midwives Institute, Miss Gethen, Secretary of the Nurses' Co-operation, Mrs. Alec Tweedie, and many members of the Matrons' Council, and the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses, as well as of most of the Societies represented at the Congress.

### Parasites and Scorpions.

The "British Medical Journal" of the 23rd ult. deals editorially with the election of direct representatives on the General Medical Council for England and Wales, and in discussing the Registration of Midwives' question, which has loomed so largely in the addresses of the various candidates, it remarks:

"The only difference revealed to us by a careful analysis of the references to this subject in the election addresses is as to a proposal put forward by Mr. Brown and Mr. Jackson for legislation to provide for the registration of all nurses, obstetric and otherwise. As to this proposal, practical men will be disposed to fear lest the whips of Mr. Brown and Mr. Jackson may turn out to be, to those of the Midwives' Bill Committee, as were the whips of King Rehoboam to those of his father. At all events a proposal of such far-reaching effect obviously demands, before receiving any formal sanction from the profession, more calm and deliberate attention than can be expected to be given to it in the heat of a contested election; and if Messrs. Brown and Jackson are elected, it is to be hoped that their return will not be construed into implying such sanction."

Our readers doubtless appreciate the allusion to the whips of Rehoboam and of his father, King Solomon; when on the accession of the former to the throne, he made it known to the people of Israel that, whereas "my father chastised you with whips, I will chastise you with scorpions."

Within the last few years nurses have been described by eminent medical men as "parasites," and "Satan in Petticoats"; it remains for the organ of the British Medical Association to liken them to scorpions. We know our "B.M.J.," and, whilst realising that its bark is worse than its bite, we are of opinion that such amenities are hardly likely to conduce to the "calm and deliberate" discussion of the question of the trained nurses' legal status.

The sudden death of Sir William MacCormac will cause deep and sincere regret to those nurses who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him, and by whom he was much esteemed.

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