

Upon the invitation of the National Union of Women Workers, Miss Kinnear Adams, Matron of Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow, attended the meeting of the National Council of Women held in Edinburgh as the Delegate of the Matrons' Council.

#### THE NURSING DIRECTORY.

The eleventh annual issue of the Nursing Directory was brought out under the authority of the Matrons' Council. The Directory forms a very valuable work of reference to those who wish to inform themselves on nursing matters. It also publishes a list of the names of many nurses in Great Britain and Ireland and abroad, with their nursing careers. All applications are considered by a sub-committee of the Matrons' Council, and the value of this professional supervision cannot be over-estimated. It is noteworthy also that this is the only Nursing Directory which has been issued this year.

#### NURSING LITERATURE.

It is a significant fact that nurses are beginning to realise the necessity for professional journals edited by members of their own profession. In this country the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*, and, in America, the *American Journal of Nursing*, the aims and policy of which are identical, and between whose editorial staffs the most cordial relations exist, voice the professional opinions of nurses in their respective countries. It must be noted that the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*, until recently the *Nursing Record*, has changed its name in order to represent more definitely the British Colonies, where it is widely read, in its title. Recently, in connection with the various Leagues, journals analogous to the students' journals which circulate amongst the members of their respective medical schools have been founded, and serve a useful purpose in keeping the members in touch with their training-schools.

#### THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

An interesting report has been issued by the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War (the British Red Cross Society) on the termination of Red Cross operations in South Africa. This states that the contributions received from the public amounted to over £180,000, of which £162,000 was expended. In a detailed description of the work done, it is stated that 728 cases were treated on board the hospital ship *Princess of Wales* and 7,548 in the hospital train. The report concludes with an acknowledgment of the support received by the Society from all sides, and adds:—"The kind offers of help and the aid in money and kind actually rendered from foreign Red Cross Societies were especially gratifying to the Council as indicating the mutual spirit of sympathy, as conceived by the Geneva Convention, governing the welfare of sick and wounded in war. In this

respect the Council beg to place on record their sincere thanks to the Red Cross Societies of France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Japan, Uruguay, as well as the St. Nicholas Society of New York and the 1st Pennsylvania Red Cross Auxiliary, Pittsburg."

#### DISTRICT NURSING.

In connection with district nursing an effort has been made during the past year to raise a fund for the further endowment of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute as a memorial to the late Queen, an effort which has resulted in the collection of about £60,000. It is to be hoped that in the near future the term of hospital training required of Queen's Nurses, which is still two years, may be raised so as to bring the standard into conformity with that enforced in the Army, Navy, and Poor Law Nursing Services, and by the Colonial Office—namely, a certificate of three years' training.

#### PRIVATE NURSING.

In the private nursing world the lack of a minimum qualification for trained nurses is still acutely felt. The best co-operations and institutions enforce the three years' standard of training, but the nurses whom they send out work side by side on equal terms with women who have been dismissed for incompetence or personal unsuitability by the training-schools, or who have had a few months' experience in a special hospital.

#### THE NEED OF A NURSING INQUIRY.

In 1897 the Members' Rights Defence Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association pleaded for an inquiry into the whole nursing question before a Select Committee of the House of Commons before the new by-laws forced upon that Association received the assent of the Privy Council. The request was not acceded to, on the ground that such an inquiry was not necessary. Yet since that time a Royal Commission has been appointed to inquire into the condition of Army nursing, and on the recommendations of this Commission the entire re-organisation of the Army Nursing Service has been undertaken by the War Office, and, as we have already seen, an exhaustive inquiry has this year been conducted by a Departmental Committee into another Governmental Nursing Department—that of the Poor Law Nursing Service. Stronger proof of the justice of the claims of those nurses who pleaded for an inquiry into the whole nursing question could scarcely be afforded. The need still remains, and we venture to say that until this inquiry is conceded the sick, both rich and poor, will suffer at the hands of incompetent nurses. The efficiency of nurses is a matter of such national importance that it is the duty of the Government in every country to take measures to protect the sick from incompetent attendants.

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