

The Society for the State Registration of Nurses.

It has already been announced that the annual meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses will be held on May 8th, and it has been decided to amalgamate it in some measure, for the convenience of country members, with the Annual Conference of the Matrons' Council.

We advise members that the Agenda of the meeting will be sent in all cases to the addresses given by them as "permanent" to be forwarded. This has been thought the wisest plan, as nurses change their professional addresses so often, and also so often fail to notify a change of address, that by any other plan the notice of the meeting might miss them.

The meeting will be called to order at 12 noon, May 8th, at 20, Hanover Square, London, W. The business meeting will be confined to the morning session, till 1.30.

At 3 p.m. the members are invited to assemble in Conference, when "State Registration of Trained Nurses as it affects the Community" will be presented in short papers by various experts, the subject being subsequently thrown open to discussion.

Several resolutions will appear on the Agenda, so that if any member desires to send in a resolution, I shall be obliged if it can reach me not later than April 15th, as the notice of the meetings must be printed and posted by the 23rd of that month. It is to be hoped that individual support will be given to the meeting by every member whose duty will permit her to be present. It is only by a real *live* interest in the question for which we are associated that we can hope to make progress possible. Moreover, if every member will influence one nurse friend to join at once, a very good report of support can be made in our first year of existence.

Forms of application will be found on advertisement page vii. ETHEL G. FENWICK, Hon. Sec.

The Indian Nursing Service.

We are officially informed that a Nursing Board has been appointed to advise the Secretary of State for India in the selection of candidates for the Indian Nursing Service. The Board at present consists of Miss C. G. Loch, R.R.C., Senior Lady Superintendent, Indian Nursing Service, now on leave in this country, and Miss M. Herbert, Matron of the General Infirmary, Worcester. This Service, which has recently been increased, is shortly to be still further enlarged by the appointment of three Senior Nursing Sisters and thirteen Nursing Sisters.

The appointment of a Nursing Board in connection with the India Office is a progressive step, and one which will give general satisfaction in the nursing world.

The Inspired Foundation of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

"Protect and defend continually it under the shadow of my wings."

Sentiment has played so prominent a part in our national history that it is not surprising the suggestion to remove St. Bartholomew's Hospital from its present, may I write hallowed, site has aroused a genuine emotion of grief in many of those who know of and revere its romantic foundation. Arguments of a material, iconoclastic nature have no weight with those who dream dreams, who see visions, who are in affinity with the unknown. Modernity, progress, reform—they desire none of these things; neither would they doubt if Rahere arose from the dead.

Of these is the writer of the following letter:—

DEAR MATRONA,—The impious suggestion to remove time-honoured "Barts" from the site selected seven centuries ago by St. Bartholomew of blessed memory has outraged every tender feeling and solemn memory I possess of this "acceptable temple." Is nothing in this once honoured country of ours to be held sacred from the sin of sacrilege? It seems incredible that removal could be even suggested when we remember, as recounted by reliable chroniclers, that several holy men of old were inspired in visions and dreams to build in the "Suburbs of London at Smithfield this acceptable temple . . . the fame of which place shall attain from the spring of the sun to the going down."

It is years since we met as fellow workers in this grand old hospital, but how clearly I recollect those star-lit summer nights when, passing across the Square, we would meet and rest awhile, seated on the centre fountain, and talk of the great Founder. Did we not agree that it was a hallowed spot, that here in the very heart of the greatest city in the world was peace divine? The spirit of Rahere encompassed it about, and in the shadows—after his manner and custom "busily to seek and provide necessaries to the need of the poor men that lay in the hospital"—did we not catch a glimpse of old Alfum moving slowly from block to block, "to whom was sad age, and sadness of age with experience of long time."

And then through the Smithfield Gate came a little gust of hot summer wind, sweet with the scent of new-mown hay and the essence of crushed wild flowers.

"Spirit scents?" I queried.

"To be accurate, a sniff of the hay market," you replied; "but close your eyes—make believe—and we are back in the ages when the waste places of Smithfield found comfort in cultivation, when the great Founder made her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord. Oh, they had flowery meads and haytime and harvest in those days, just beyond the gate." And then you added, not without tragedy, "I have never made hay for seven years."

Surely you are not the woman I remember you if you can contemplate the removal of this "House" without passionate regret; "for the High Maker of all things willed that it be builded." BLUE JAY.

Those who have studied the Two Foundations of

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