

her large blue apron with its spacious pocket, and a large, wide-brimmed sailor hat, starting off to the hop gardens, pushing the cart through rutted fields ankle deep in mud, was a sight to make one chuckle. But to follow her up, see her arrive amongst the pickers, pull up her cart and wait for orders, was unforgettable, for her disguise was inimitable. "A fardin' cup o' tea and a fardin' kyke," says a little five-year-old urchin.

"We have no farthing cups of tea—only tarthing cakes," is the reply.

"Oh, haven't yer? A kyke and a fardin' change," and the shrewd, sharp-faced little Cockney holds up a halfpenny, and waits for the change and "fardin' kyke"—needless to say, sold at a loss.

It is here, in the hop gardens, that the nurses get to know the patients at their best. It is a pretty sight to see a whole family around a bin picking the bunches of pale green hops, which contrast so beautifully with their dark-green foliage, while the babies lie in their perambulators or sprawl on a bundle of rags on the ground, and the little ones toddle about in great glee.

Twice a day the booker comes round and measures the hops, and then they are sent on to the oast houses to be baked over sulphur fires. The smell of both the fresh and the baked hops seems to affect the pickers differently. Some say it sets them up for the year, while with others it causes eczema, sore legs, diarrhoea, and sickness. To the babies, it means kill or cure.

I need hardly say how popular the nurses are among the pickers, for the poor, at all events, invariably love them, and here, in their makeshift lives, under such circumstances, the sight of a nurse is homelike, comforting. At East Peckham we all went about in our indoor uniforms, caps, and aprons, and, whether by day or by night, the nurses were always greeted with love, respect, and even reverence—a just tribute, for their influence for good was untold.

I cannot close without thanking my colleagues for the splendid, unselfish work they did—three of them having left their districts to come to fresh hard work, and another (a private nurse), gave one out of her two weeks' holiday, returning straight to her case.

EDLA R. WORTABET.

SCHOOL INFECTION IN SCARLET FEVER.

A medical correspondent of the *Scotsman* draws attention to the necessity for the regular disinfection of schoolroom floors as a preventive of infection from scarlet fever, for while such disinfection is possibly powerless to prevent a certain amount of direct infection by a child who has returned to school presumably free from infection, but still retaining it in the nose and throat passages, it would prevent the probably much larger amount of infection which is spread through the inhalation of the infectious dust of the schoolroom floor.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

A meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses was held at the Office, 431, Oxford Street, W., on Friday, October 22nd. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair, and there were present: Miss Forrest, Hon. Treasurer; Miss B. Cutler, Hon. Secretary; and thirty-six members, including delegates from most of the affiliated societies.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the President presented the following report:—

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Since our last meeting on April 7th, when we met to consider the organisation of the International Congress of Nurses, it has become an accomplished fact, and the decision to invite the International Council of Nurses to meet in London has been justified by its results, as this meeting and the Congress held in connection with it have proved one of the most successful Conferences of women ever held. Full reports of the Congress have appeared in the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*, but it is my duty to report officially to this Council some of the more salient points.

In response to the invitations sent out, acceptances were received from the Presidents and official delegates of the National Councils of Nurses in the United States of America (the American Federation of Nurses), Germany, Holland, Finland, Denmark, and Canada, in addition to our own. Dr. Anna Hamilton, Hon. Vice-President for France, of the International Council of Nurses, and Miss Amy Turton for Italy, were also present. Belgium and Cuba sent fraternal delegates appointed by their respective Governments. Holland, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, New Zealand, and last, but not least, Japan, also sent fraternal delegates—twenty countries in all—and not only was the response made numerically remarkable, but from all parts of the world matrons and nurses of the highest standing in their profession, and renowned for their organisation and educational work, were present.

PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS AND FINANCE.

The business of the International Council of Nurses was arranged by the officers of the International Council, but, to facilitate the arrangements of the International Congress of Nurses, this National Council left to a great extent in my hands, as President, the details of organisation.

It will be remembered that £50 towards a guarantee fund was promised by members of this Council. When the arrangements began to take shape I found that at least £500 would be required to carry out the professional and social work of the Congress. I therefore felt it necessary to assume the financial responsibility. The Congress was organised almost entirely through the medium

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