

"Science in Modern Life."

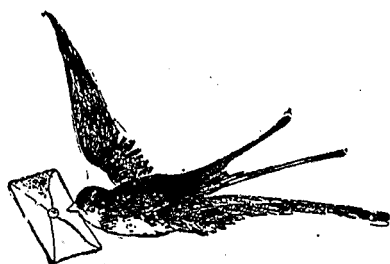
The fifth volume of the above work has been issued, and should claim wide interest in the nursing profession. It contains surveys of Agriculture, Philosophical Biology, Physiology and Medicine, and Anthropology. We have been led through the sciences in evolutionary order, from the Ice Age down to wireless telegraphy, the properties of radium, the serum treatment of diseases, and the treatment of consumption. A chapter devoted to the subject of Public Health reviews the lowering of the death-rate, eradication of disease, legislation for phthisis, reports of the Registrar-General, pulmonary tuberculosis, cancer, enteric fever, small-pox, scarlet fever, etc. Charts showing death-rates from all causes and from phthisis show that since 1838 the death-rate from all causes has gone steadily down. The death-rate from phthisis has decreased per million persons from 3,000 in 1853 to 1,200 in 1905. In 1869 enteric fever claimed 380 per million persons, while in 1905 it was reduced to 120. Small-pox has almost gone from among us, and scarlet fever because of its less malignant form is less fatal. In woeful and remarkable contrast stands out the death-rate from cancer. From 1851 it has increased steadily from 300 to 900 per million.

The publishers—the Gresham Publishing Company—are to be congratulated on the production of such a useful and much required work.

E. A. S.

Our Foreign Letter.

FROM THE UNITED STATES.



DEAR EDITOR,
—You must have a little account of the annual meetings which have just taken place; as you know, the two societies

though not meeting this year as a Federation, yet met in the same week and with programmes arranged so that members of both could go to all the sessions; the Superintendents had two days and the Alumnae three, while the other was given to a joint session at Teachers' College, where occupations for invalids and convalescents, mental and nervous cases, and the handicapped were most instructively and helpfully treated of.

The meetings were good and full of interest, and important questions; they were serious and quiet, and no entertainments or merrymakings took place. A public meeting in Carnegie Hall was devoted to the commemoration of Florence Nightingale's life and influence. It was also a serious occasion, and while the large hall was packed with nurses and others who desired to show their homage to the venerable pioneer nurse, there was nothing of the worldly spirit therein, but more the atmosphere of a tribute to one who may at any moment pass

into the beyond. But more personal and appealing was the exhibit of her writings, portraits, and photographs, letters, and other mementos which was arranged in excellent style and effectiveness at Teachers' College. This was a really valuable and interesting collection, and, with the exhibit of work done by patients, will remain on view for some weeks to come. Tea served at Teachers' College on the afternoon of the joint day was the only social occasion, and brought together a large assemblage of nurses from all over the country.

The event of greatest value and significance, as you no doubt will agree, was the establishment of a memorial to Isabel Hampton Robb. A joint committee representing the two societies presented the suggestions, and outlined the first steps to take, and the nucleus of a permanent committee has been formed. It was decided to create scholarships for nurses desiring to take special post-graduate work, as the form that this memorial shall take, and I feel sure that this is of all things the one that would have made our lost leader most happy, for it unites all that she stood for in the progress of the nursing profession with that personal care for the individual, and that human warmth of helpfulness which always made her own personality so lovable and strong.

A further suggestion made by Miss Delano does, I think, complete in a quite admirable way the harmony of the memorial with Mrs. Robb's broadly catholic world interests. She proposed that the scholarships should not be limited to any one institution of learning, but should be applied anywhere—"perhaps," as she wisely said, "to educational institutions that are not now in existence, and that we cannot naturally know of. We do not know just how the nursing education of the future will develop, or what forms it will take; and let us create this fund to be used for the needs of nurses in preparing for any form of special work. Perhaps some will wish to take the study courses of the schools of philanthropy, some will want to go to Teachers' College, others may want what we cannot now foresee." All details of administration will, of course, have to be worked out by a suitable committee or central executive board. Moreover, the scholarships need not, of course, be of the same amount, but may vary according to the special need. This suggestion was hailed with the deepest and most cordial approval by the whole assemblage, and three thousand dollars were promised before the sessions closed. It was agreed that we would work for not less than fifty thousand dollars (£10,000), and that as much more than this as we could get would be all the better, as there need be no limitation on the sum total. Miss Hay, Superintendent of the Illinois Training School for Nurses, was chosen as Chairman of the Fund Committee for the ensuing year. Appeals for gifts are to be made through all the ramifications of our nurses' organisations, and naturally hospital directors and all the many groups of people who have been associated with Mrs. Robb in her manifold activities may also contribute.

Now I shall tell you a little of the personal side of the meetings. Our dear Miss Linda Richards, the first woman in the United States to gain a

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