

Church, which has gone to join the Royalists, composed chiefly of the nobility whose calling *par excellence* is the Army.

The Army now admits that the care of the sick is not the monopoly of the nuns—one of the traditions in France which will die slowly.

(To be concluded.)

Progress of State Registration.

The Hon. Albinia Brodrick replies in *Nursing Notes* to a very illogical and intolerant criticism of her arresting article, "Thou Shalt do no Murder," which appeared in the July number of the *Fortnightly Review*. We write illogical, because *Nursing Notes*, which is the organ of the Midwives' Institute, to which the credit of midwives registration is due, has always been unsound on the question of State Registration (educational organisation) of Trained Nurses.

The Editor of *Nursing Notes*, in annotating Miss Brodrick's letter, states "that while *Nursing Notes* is the official organ of the Midwives' Institute . . . as a journal it is entirely independent in its views and editorial comments on current topics . . ."

"It is regrettable," writes Miss Brodrick, "that the reviewer should impute to me a motive in writing the article which is totally at variance with the actual one. My deep conviction of the needs of my profession and the danger to which the public are exposed were the origin of the article. Destruction is worthless, without some scheme of construction, and I voiced the opinion of the great majority of thoughtful and intellectual nurses, I do not speak for England alone—in applying the remedy of Registration and a Central Examination.

"It is regrettable that your reviewer's intelligence did not permit her to note that my criticisms, each one carefully weighed, are directed against the *system* which permits such terrible occurrences as those enumerated, and not, as I expressly took occasion to note, against my profession.

"The object of all training is, to my mind, twofold—to form habits and to impart knowledge—the failure of the nurse in all the cases noted was in the *habit and practice of her profession*—not simply "in gentleness and goodness," or in carefulness. A *habit* of truthfulness, of putting away lotions when a delirious patient was in the ward, of thinking first of her patient under all circumstances, of leaving no dangerous instrument within reach of a suicidal maniac, of strict asepsis—this is that in which the nurse was lacking. And these habits should form a part of the elementary training of her profession. So also should ethics—which, properly taught, as in France and the United States, should make most of the cases cited impossible. Had these nurses then known 'the elements of their profession,' these preventable deaths would not have occurred. . . .

"Nurses, being guardians of the public health, cannot, where the health of the nation is at stake, be dealt with as individuals. Neither can doctors, chemists, or midwives. Their existence, if not legalised and supervised, is a standing menace to the public. Why recognise this in all professions except that of Nursing? The position is unreasonable. How narrow is the point of view which will permit the health of the race to be sacrificed to the fancied interests of the individual. We, of the broader school, who for many years past have been educating both professional and public opinion in the matter, cannot but view with deep sorrow the writing in a journal such as that of the Institute of so prejudiced, so narrow-minded, and so reactionary a paper."

Scottish Matrons' Association.

The quarterly meeting of the above Association was held on August 27th, at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow. Miss Gill, President, was in the chair. There were thirty members present. A resolution was passed expressing a deep sense of the great loss sustained by the nursing world in the death of Miss Florence Nightingale. A wreath in name of the Association had been sent to the funeral. A resolution was also passed recording an expression of deep regret at the loss sustained by the association and the nursing profession, by the death of one of the Vice-Presidents, Miss Duff, late Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Dundee. An expression of sympathy was conveyed to her relatives. There were three new members elected.

The next meeting was arranged to be held in Edinburgh on December 3rd, and it was decided that week-end hospitality should be offered to members from a distance.

After the meeting Miss Melrose very kindly provided tea for the members, afterwards personally conducting them through the beautiful new wards, nurses' home, laundry, etc. This proved a great attraction, and added greatly to the pleasure of the day.

The Passing Bell.

The staff of the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, has sustained a sad loss by the death of Nurse Cooke-Yarborough, after a short illness. The funeral took place on the 2nd inst, the first part of the service being held in the Hospital Chapel, the Rev. W. H. Orton (Chaplain) officiating. The service, which was choral, was attended by the doctors, sisters, and nurses. As the coffin was borne out the nurses lined the steps and placed lovely floral tributes on it. It was inscribed "Norah Gladys Cooke-Yarborough, died 30th August, 1910, aged 25." The interment took place in the Extra Mural Cemetery. Miss Cooke-Yarborough, who was very highly esteemed by all at the hospital, was a native of Boston, Lincs.

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