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## Editorial.

### THE MATRONS' COUNCIL AT BIRMINGHAM.

The invitation given by Miss Musson, Matron of the General Hospital, Birmingham, to the members of the Matrons' Council to hold their summer meeting at that institution, by the kind permission of the authorities of the hospital, will afford the members an opportunity of seeing something of the great capital of the Midlands, and of meeting their colleagues from its many hospitals.

The idea, which originated with the Hon. Secretary, Miss Mollett, that the Council should meet in various centres, instead of always in London, is a very happy one, and now that Scotland and Ireland have each their own Matrons' Association, we hope it may be possible for the members of the Association of Matrons in the three countries to meet occasionally in the capital of each.

The time to be spent in Birmingham is too short for more than a passing glimpse, and presumably most of the visitors will not attempt to do more than see the General Hospital, which is a most up-to-date and interesting building, on this occasion; but it is probable that they will be inspired to return to see more of the city, and of its institutions and surroundings, on a future occasion. The city is noted for its public spirit, and its hospitals, poor-law infirmaries, and other institutions are well worth visiting. Added to this, Birmingham itself has many interesting sights to offer. It is a cathedral city and a most progressive university centre; it is a hive of industry—firearms, electro-plate, and buttons being amongst its manufactures; it has a famous Art Gallery containing many beautiful pictures, and in the suburbs an old Elizabethan mansion, Aston Hall—now the

property of the public—will well repay a visit, as will also the beautiful pleasure grounds which adjoin it. If this is not enough to inspire a visit to the capital of the Midlands, within easy reach are Warwick and Kenilworth Castles, Worcester and Lichfield Cathedrals, Stratford-on-Avon, Bournville, and the Malvern Hills.

English men and women are sometimes reproached that they take their pleasure outside their own country and are ignorant of much that would be profitable and pleasurable for them to know concerning its beauties and its industries. Nurses who come into intimate contact with the people should make a point of studying the conditions under which they live, especially in the great industrial centres, and a holiday spent in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, which, being in the centre of the map of England, is most accessible, might be very enjoyable.

It is quite a mistake to suppose that because of its proximity to the "Black Country" that the neighbourhood of the city is unlovely; on the contrary, it is set in the midst of some of the most attractive scenery in England, and the Black Country itself affords many points of interest to the thoughtful student of social economics, amongst whom many nurses are numbered. A day spent in studying the conditions under which our fellow men and women work at Cradley Heath and other Black Country towns would afford food for thought, and would be a unique and interesting experience.

We hope that the visit of the Matrons' Council to Birmingham will be the prelude to others, which will increase our knowledge of the localities in which our members are working in different parts of the kingdom.

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