

Executive Committee.

Dr. McGregor Robertson said that every hospital in the country to the extent of its ability ought to be accepted as a training institution, as to restrict the training of nurses to the large general hospitals would limit the profession.

Miss Wright, Stobhill, described the progress made by the association, and said that their aim was to make it a truly national association for Scotland.

Miss Finn, Paisley, spoke of the benefits of registration to the nurses themselves, and to the public.

Dr. Johnston, Belvidere Hospital, congratulated the nurses engaged in fever work on having that association which had their interests so much at heart.

The Nurses' Registration Bill as drafted provides for reciprocal training, and no doubt when the Nursing Council gets to work (and it is high time it did so), more than one reciprocal curriculum in justice to special hospitals will be defined. The large general hospitals are "general" no longer, as for the benefit of the patients, infectious diseases are no longer admitted to their wards. The plan should be to pool the clinical material available for teaching purposes in all hospitals, and divide it up for training purposes. No doubt this will be done.

International Sympathy.

We have already announced that the School for Nurses of the Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, would send pupils to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, as formerly. The four first have arrived and were warmly received. They now feel quite at home. The first act of the pupils was to testify their feeling devotion to the memory of Miss Florence Nightingale. Two of them—Miss Cuzin and Miss Ruffin—left Waterloo on Dec. 14th for Romsey, and placed a bouquet of beautiful flowers, lilies, lilies of the valley, pinks, and orchids, on Miss Nightingale's grave. Alas! the rain spoiled the flowers, and the tri-coloured ribbon was immediately soiled. However, they wrote to their comrades at Paris that they were very happy and deeply moved by this pilgrimage; and it will long be spoken of at the Salpêtrière.

This expression of international sympathy is deeply gratifying to English nurses.

The Hospital for Invalid Gentlewomen, 19, Lisson Grove, N.W., will henceforth be known as "The Florence Nightingale Hospital for Invalid Gentlewomen,"

The Spiritual Side of Nursing.*

That "spiritual fitness" is quite as necessary in a trained nurse as technical ability is asserted by William C. Graves, executive secretary of the Illinois Charities Commission, in an address on "The Nursing Spirit," made recently at a training school commencement. In like manner, he says, the physician who inspires confidence by his healing spirit wins the battle against illness more quickly and more completely because of the stimulated hopeful attitude of his patient. This kind of applied psychology aids medicine and the knife in many a desperate case where heroic treatment tides over a crisis for a patient who is conscious of what the doctor is trying to do to help him:

"The same holds true of the nurse. Perhaps spiritual fitness in a nurse is more essential to the relief and cure of a sick person than is the same quality in a physician. The nurse is in charge practically all the time. The doctor, as a rule, sees the patient at intervals. Hence it is a fundamental necessity that a nurse who wishes to succeed in the largest sense of the word must have the genuine nursing spirit. She must love to care for the sick. She must find her greatest delight in gentle ministrations to them. She must receive her greatest compensation in the realisation that persons curably ill are restored to health and the pleasures and comforts of life as the result in part of her tender and intelligent care; and that those who die pass into the great beyond soothed by the knowledge that a sympathetic soul is watching over them.

"These statements may sound like the thunderings of a sermon, or like a scolding, in a period when too many nurses are coldly scientific in their service. If this is a sermon, very well! Let it be one. I have seen ultra-scientific nurses. It would appear almost that they suppress the sympathy, the tenderness, and the mothering instinct that are supposed to well up in the hearts of all women in the presence of illness and suffering, because it is wearing upon them to expend nervous energy in sympathy and the like, although they perform their specified duties with religious fidelity. Many of these women are most capable scientific nurses, but, if you were ill, which would you prefer, to have one of them care for you or one of those heaven-sent creatures whose gentle touch and whose encouraging words are added to scientific ministrations as an anodyne for your troubled heart and a stimulant for your apprehensive spirit?"

In illustration of what he calls "the nursing spirit," the speaker related the following incident that occurred in Chicago during a period of intense heat:

"During one of these stifling nights an inspector visited the Cook County Hospital. In a certain bathroom was a heat case wallowing in a tub of ice-water. He was a Pole. He was muscular, his hair in a tousled mass was matted down over his eyes, his hands were knotted from hard work, he was indescribably filthy, and he kept up a combina-

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