

Hospital, Birmingham, who expressed the opinion that in the best-fed hospitals the food is not inferior to that in many middle-class houses, but the great amount of energy expended by a nurse demanded an adequate supply of food, and the nature of her duties demanded that it should be daintily and attractively served. Once we have uprooted the old-fashioned idea that rough food is part of the necessary self-abnegation of a nurse's life, and learned to recognise that meal times should be times of recreation and enjoyment, Miss Musson believes that great improvement will be seen.

Miss Buckingham, Matron of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, followed with a paper on original lines on "The Nurse Off Duty," and the last half-hour was devoted to "A Proposal for the Registration of Hospital Certificates," by Miss M. Barwell, Matron of the General Hospital, Yarmouth. Miss Barwell deprecates the increasing adoption of nurses' uniform by untrained women, such as nursery maids, doctors' and dentists' parlourmaids, advertisement touts, and women who sell medical and nursing requisites, who are dressed as nurses for the sake of local colour, just as the toyshop managers array their shopmen at Christmas time as Teddy Bears, Clowns, and Father Christmases, to be "in the picture," so to speak; and lastly by professional thieves and "unfortunates." She said that the suggestions to deal with the abuse of the sham hospital nurse resolved themselves into two forms, the protection of the uniform, and the registration of the nurse. The former she considered impossible, the latter outside the scope of her paper, and proceeded to advocate the compulsory registration of hospital certificates, general and special, and that some such system could be adopted as is in use for the identification of motor cars.

The proposition is, of course, no new one, being the alternative suggested by the Central Hospital Council for London to the Registration of Nurses after this had been unanimously recommended by a Select Committee of the House of Commons. It was embodied in the Official Directory of Nurses Bill introduced into the House of Lords in 1908, and uncompromisingly rejected by the House. It is, in short, the red herring drawn across the registration track by those who are opposed to the establishment of a Central Governing Body for the Nursing Profession.

At the conclusion of Miss Barwell's paper Miss Musson gave a brief résumé of the registration question, replacing at the shortest notice Miss Amy Hughes, who was to have spoken, but who was prevented from being present.

Miss Bennett in closing the Meeting said that at present there were not enough nurses to go round, and she was afraid if registration were in force, the number would be limited still more. She thought all should work together to mother the sick.

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

### WOMEN.

Her Majesty the Queen has graciously signified her interest in Bedford College for Women (University of London) by consenting to open, on July 4th, the new college buildings now being erected in Regent's Park.

Queen Alexandra's reply to the London County Council, which recently presented an address of congratulation on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of her entry into London, ends:—  
"For every good work for the benefit of the poor, the sick, and the suffering you have my sympathy and my good wishes, while my constant prayer will always be for the country that has shown me such kindness and affection."

The Princess Lichnowsky, the wife of the newly-appointed German Ambassador, has joined the Lyceum Club. As she is a very charming and clever woman, she will be a great acquisition to its membership. There are now Lyceum Clubs in Berlin, Paris, and Florence, and the more international their spirit the better.

To the memorial of congratulation to Lady Hardinge on the escape of the Viceroy of India at Delhi on December 23rd, organised by Lady Sydenham, more than 3,000,000 women subscribed. It consisted of an illuminated address and other gifts. In a letter of acknowledgment Lady Hardinge expressed her heartfelt appreciation of the kindly act. She hoped that her stay in India would bring her more and more into contact with Indian women of all classes, who had continuously expressed the kindest sentiments towards her, and whose many good qualities she had learned to admire, amongst these none being greater than their patience and courage in adversity.

We have noted recently that at county district nursing meetings reverend Deans and medical officers are reported to have made very silly attacks on women who value their citizenship and self-respect. Dr. Humphreys, a county medical officer at Newtown, instead of blaming women for the crass ignorance concerning the upbringing of children, and their improper feeding, should realise that men have kept them ignorant in every condition of life. Dr. Humphreys wished to goodness they could convert suffragettes into district nurses—that would be a safety-valve for them! It might have even more beneficent results. These intelligent women would soon have something to say to the medical officer in question on other improper matters as well as improper feeding of infants. No doubt they would point out that the majority of poor child-bearing women are usually improperly fed, both as to quality and quantity; that on fifteen shillings a week all told the district nurse's food is seldom super-abundant. The more militant the spirit amongst our social

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