

which added greatly to the enjoyment of a very strenuous day. The whole National Council of Nurses is deeply indebted to Mrs. Spencer for her delightful courtesy.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At the Afternoon Session four subjects of great importance to the sick were discussed, which require more attention than it is possible to give in this report.

Miss A. C. Gibson, the late Matron of the Birmingham Infirmary, gave a most interesting address on the new Poor Law Institution (Nursing) Order. Miss Gibson stands out as a Poor Law Matron who has always pleaded publicly for a high standard of nursing for poor law patients. Her strongly expressed conviction that the new Order, if promulgated in its present form, will be most detrimental to the efficient nursing of the sick poor in small work-house wards, is therefore entitled to the highest respect, as coming from one with an intimate and expert knowledge of the question, and we hope that before the Order comes into force, as is proposed, early in the New Year, that it may receive attention.

Miss Breay then brought forward the question of the Registration of Nursing Homes, in which she placed the present suggestions of the London County Council before the meeting. It was evident that Superintendents of well-conducted Nursing Homes have no objection to inspection, but to be acceptable to them such inspection must be conducted by professional experts. The very strongest exception was taken to possible inspection by unprofessional persons, and it was decided to ask the Public Control Committee of the L.C.C. to receive a deputation from the National Council of Trained Nurses on the subject.

Owing to the exclusion of trained nurses from direct representation on the Advisory Committee of the National Insurance Act, the President presented a report on the steps she had taken to have the question of the nursing of the insured sick, and the status of insurance nurses, brought before the public. She spoke of the exceedingly important Conference held on the subject on the previous day, at the Caxton Hall, which had resulted in the appointment of a representative standing committee to deal with the question, on to which she had been elected to represent the National Council of Trained Nurses.

The next question discussed was the status of the Trained Nurse in connection with the British Red Cross Society, which was considered to be most unsatisfactory, as exem-

plified by the constitution of the units sent to the recent wars in the Near East.

Mrs. St. Clair Stobart spoke to the meeting of her personal experience of women's part in war—in connection with the Women's Convoy Corps—on active service in Bulgaria, and laid great emphasis on the necessity for trained women nurses in military hospitals in war. The Council agreed that the British Red Cross Society should be asked to state whether or no thoroughly trained nursing was to be included in its primary object, of furnishing aid to the sick and wounded in time of war, and it agreed to the appointment of a Sub-Committee to deal with the nursing of the sick and wounded in foreign wars.

The meeting then terminated, tea was provided at the Medical Society's Rooms, and a most pleasant and instructive hour was passed in social intercourse.

THE ISLA STEWART ORATION.

At half-past five Miss H. L. Pearse presided at the Isla Stewart Oration, which was delivered by Miss Mollett on the subject of "The Power of Example." Both as to style, and as to ethical standards it was at a high level of excellence, and received with great appreciation. It will be published in uniformity with that delivered in 1911 by Miss Cox Davies at the Guildhall, London, and should be included in the nursing libraries of all who value the history of those members of their profession who stand out as leaders in their generation.

In reply to several correspondents "The Exposition Fact Book," sent by Mr. J. A. Barr, Manager of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, and which was distributed at the National Council Meeting, can be obtained from the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., for 1½d.

The Report on The Nursing of Insured Persons can be obtained, price One Penny from the Hon. Secretary, Association of Approved Societies, 82, Victoria Street, S.W.

"War and Women" by Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, with preface by Viscount Esher, G.C.B., is published by G. Bell & Sons, Ltd., at 3s. 6d. net.

A ROYAL MATRON.

"Sister Irmengard"—Archduchess Isabella, a niece of the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria—who has, says the *Daily Express*, for some time served as nurse in the Rudolph Hospital, Vienna, has accepted the appointment offered her by King Alfonso of matron of the Red Cross Hospital at Madrid.

It will be remembered that the marriage of the Archduchess proved very unhappy, and was after a few weeks annulled.

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