

has been invited to represent the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, of which she is a member, as it is feared none of its officers will be able to attend the Congress, which promises to be exceedingly interesting. The Italian Council, of which the Contessa Spalletto Rasponi is President, is making great preparations for the event.

We have pleasure in presenting on page 277 a portrait of Miss Muriel R. Hawkins, Nursing Superintendent of the Baptist Zenana Mission Hospital, Palwal, Punjab, India, and Hon. Secretary of the Association of Nursing Superintendents of India. She was trained at the Camberwell Infirmary, London, and at the Glasgow Maternity Hospital, where she held the position of Nursing Superintendent of the District Nursing. She has also held the position of Nursing Superintendent of the Memorial Hospital, Ludhiana, India. Miss Hawkins has already proved her efficiency as Hon. Secretary, while acting temporarily for Miss Henry, and the Association is to be congratulated on having her services as a permanent officer.

The result of the Referendum on Private Nurses' fees was reported to the Council of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association at its meeting on the 11th of February last. On the motion of Miss Gould, seconded by Mrs. Davidson, it was resolved that the new scale of fees should come into force from March 1st. The fee for general nurses for all cases will henceforth be £3 3s., and there is no fee for washing, except in infectious cases, when a fee of 5s. is charged. The following was the result of the vote of the members:—

	Votes.
1. Present fees	79
2. Ordinary cases, 2½ guineas and 5s. for washing; infectious fees, £3 3s., with 5s. for washing ...	127
3. Fees for all cases, £3 3s., with a fee of 5s. for washing in infectious cases only	546
Informal	40

We congratulate the progressive wing of the Association on a well-deserved victory.

WELCOME HELP.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations:—Mrs. Shuter, 10s.; Miss C. Todd, 10s.; Miss Isabel Callaghan, 10s.; Miss Mary Harvey, 5s.; Miss C. Falconer, 5s.; Miss M. Laidlaw, 5s.; Miss Wortabet, 5s.

PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

PRIVATE DUTY NURSING.

The book on "Private Duty Nursing," by Miss Katherine De Witt, R.N., Graduate of Mount Holyoke Seminary, and of the Illinois Training School for Nurses, Assistant Editor of the *American Journal of Nursing*, and published by J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia and London, price 6s., should be in the hands of every private nurse. Miss De Witt rightly regards private nursing as "one of the most important and interesting branches of nursing work. It is certainly as needed as any, and combines the obligations of all."

The private nurse should be an administrator, like her hospital sister, and a health missionary, like the visiting nurse. "Poverty and ignorance do not always go hand-in-hand, nor riches and knowledge. Preventive or health nursing must not be confined to the lower part of the social order, but must permeate the whole structure if the desired results are to be obtained."

Amongst the qualifications for private nurses Miss De Witt writes that "A nurse must constantly guard herself against the callousness and indelicacy which come so easily when one grows accustomed to that which was at first shocking, for if her mind is kept free from ill her speech will not offend. . . . The true nurse, like the true doctor, becomes more tender and gentle as the years go by. The continual demands upon her bring out the best of her womanly qualities. Her face, her voice, her touch, all invite confidence and trust. It is possible for this familiarity with weakness and suffering to transform her into one of the most beautiful of characters, and that is an ideal for which we should all strive."

A needed word is given about businesslike habits in regard to engagements. "Many complications arise through vagueness or misunderstandings on the part of employer or employed."

In regard to charges Miss De Witt considers that "if nurses would adopt charges, not fixed by an association, but adapted to the means of the patient and to their own ability, there would be a greater demand for their services and there would be fewer needing employment."

"So long as human beings vary in gifts and ability, so long will they vary in the value of the service they render, and their remuneration should vary accordingly. . . . The nurse who has hardly a free day for herself is justified in raising her charges, while one who is only building up a practice, or who has not proven herself so well adapted to her work, cannot command more than the average rate, or less than the average."

Miss De Witt has many wise things to say about the nurse's relations to the family, and if these were always carried out the private nurse would be a more popular person than she often is at present.

The chapters on obstetric nursing are particularly valuable. We strongly commend the book to the attention of our readers.

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