

greeting you sent to Miss Goodrich was read officially at her request by Miss Hulme, at this meeting. Then followed an address by Mr. Chester H. Rowell, Commissioner Panama-Pacific International Exposition, who was also the Regent of the University of California. Then, Miss Sophia Palmer, R.N., Editor-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Nursing*, read her interesting paper on "The Power of the Professional Press." Going back to very early times, she traced, step by step, the history of writing and the written language, up to the present day—alluding especially to the medical and nursing press, and what they had achieved. Miss Goodrich was kind enough to allow me to say a few words, in spite of a full programme. Probably you will not have space for them, but I will give them in case you like to do so: "Having listened with great interest to Miss Palmer's paper, I should like, on behalf of my own country, to testify to the great educational value of the professional press. I have the honour to represent THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which is the official organ of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, and is also the organ of State Registration. I believe I am right in saying that it has the distinction of being the oldest professional nursing journal in my own and every other country. It was founded twenty-seven years ago, and has been our chief educator ever since. All the progress we have made, all the work we have achieved, is due to the educational work of our Journal. A nurse said to me yesterday, referring to the nursing press: "It keeps one up to the mark, it helps to keep the profession standardized." That is precisely what it does, and more—it *vitalizes* the profession. It also acts as a bond of union, drawing and keeping us together; it encourages loyalty and *esprit de corps*. Our professional journals have besides great ethical value. I am proud to think that our BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is known in your country and others, and I am equally proud to think that your most admirable *American Journal of Nursing* and *The Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing* are known to and appreciated by us. Therefore our professional press is of great international value to us. It is not too much to say that internationalism among nurses would have been well nigh impossible without the medium of our press; we are, therefore, greatly indebted to those literary ladies who edit and conduct our journals." Dr. Henry B. Favill, of Chicago, in an admirable address, remarked that physicians should participate more actively in the education of student nurses.

BEATRICE KENT.

During the thunderstorm on Sunday afternoon the stone coping and chimney stack of the offices of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses were struck by lightning and crashed heavily into the street. Some of the masonry also fell through the roof of the adjoining premises.

SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Scottish Society of Trained Nurses is about to publish the "Nightingale" Prize Essay, "Modern Nursing," by Sister I. C. Cowie, Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley. Profits on its sale will be given to Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund, and the Scottish Women's Hospitals in France and Serbia. Copies—price 3d.—may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary Miss Stevenson, Bay View, Johnshaven, Kincardineshire.

Miss E. A. Stevenson, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Scottish Society of Trained Nurses, has been elected a member of "La Société Astronomique de France." Miss Stevenson has for some time been a member of the British Astronomical Association.

A BOGUS WAR NURSE.

At Surrey Quarter Sessions, on Tuesday, August 10th, Mariette Van Weyenberg, 22, a Belgian adventuress, posing as a nurse from the Front, pleaded guilty to stealing a £10 bank note at the house of Major Harry Gordon Watney, at Weybridge.

According to the evidence, she posed as a wounded nurse, and was invited to stay at Major Watney's house. On the day of her arrival, she made an excuse for getting away. After she had gone the £10 note was missing. She cashed it at a London hotel, in payment of an old bill.

Police-superintendent Mears said the prisoner came to England towards the end of 1914, and stayed at several hotels, afterwards returning to Belgium. On March 26th last, the French authorities at Havre issued a report concerning her. She arrived at Havre from Southampton, on February 1st last, and stayed at a hotel there, passing as a nurse attached to the Belgian Army, and claiming to have been in the sieges of Liège and Namur. She also said she had been decorated by the Belgian Government for her services in the field. While in France, she took every opportunity of associating with British officers, and made herself rather notorious. Inquiries showed that she was not a nurse, and was not entitled to the decoration which she wore. At Ostend the British Military Attaché had himself seen her turned away from a hospital to which she had represented she was attached.

On February 12th, the prisoner was sent by the French authorities to a concentration camp, from which she escaped. The report further stated that she was certainly an adventuress and an undesirable, and was probably dangerous from a national point of view. After escaping from the concentration camp, she came to England, and stayed at Portsmouth, Dover, Folkestone, and at various hotels in London.

Sentence of twelve months' second division imprisonment was passed.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)