

institution, which is twice the size it was when the Matron was appointed. She has no doubt watched its growth and many improvements with much satisfaction. Sounds of seductive dance music and merry-making drew them first to the nurses' sitting-room, or salon, that being a more appropriate word. A fancy dress entertainment for the night nurses, to celebrate the passing of the final examination, was drawing to a close. The obtrusive Monkey Soap man, with the slavey polishing the frying-pan, and many Boy Scouts were among this motley assembly. An hour later the scene changed. In the same salon sat rows and rows of nurses in "cap and gown" of the neatest and nicest, and it might have been a puzzle to the visitor had she been asked to pick out the monkey man and his companion and the Boy Scouts from among them.

It is a moot question as to whether the nurses had the greater enjoyment or their Matron, who watched their pleasure, for the deep interest she takes in the welfare of her Nurses is very apparent as one talks to her. Most English Hospitals well deserve their reputation for cleanliness, order and neatness, but the visitor never remembers having seen one *more* deserving of that reputation, than the Camberwell Infirmary, from the spick-and-span uniform of the nurses and maids to the bare walls and floors. An almost unique feature is the block of round wards. Another of very special interest and attraction is the accommodation for open-air treatment on the roof, combined with roof gardens.

PROFESSIONAL OPINION.

The *Nursing Journal of India* says:—"There is, at present, a great controversy raging in the British portion of the Nursing Profession, on the subject of State Registration; and we think our readers in India may perhaps like to know more on the subject. The people in favour of State Registration have for years past been asking Parliament to grant them the right to organize their own profession; but, year after year the Premier has refused the second reading of the Bill. Ten years ago, a Select Committee of the House of Commons reported that a Register of Nurses should be kept by a Central Body appointed by the State, and in November 1908 the Nurses' Registration Bill passed the House of Commons with the support of the Liberal Government. Again in 1914 this Bill was supported by an overwhelming majority. It asks for self-government, power of independent examination and the power of exercising discipline in the profession. There have been, during the present war, such a number of instances of untrained women undertaking the nursing of serious cases, and commanding trained women often with disastrous results, that the Hon. A. Stanley, Chairman of the Joint War Committee has proposed, as an intermediate measure, the formation of a Voluntary College of Nursing, incorporated under the Board of Trade, through which it is arranged to organize

the Nursing Profession, fix examinations, and grant certificates of efficiency. This proposal is sent out on the official paper of the Joint War Committee and signed by the Chairman the Hon. A. Stanley. The Committee he proposes . . . are to appoint examiners, and to accept certain examinations of certain hospitals . . . This College of Nursing is also to control all the women's work in hospitals and a suggestion is made of different grades of nurses. Where is the sense of this? Registrationists want legal status, an Act of Parliament to replete legally the whole of the Nursing Profession and its work—to appoint a Governing Body elected by nurses themselves and a Nursing Council to define the educational curriculum of nurses and to force hospitals to train their nurses to a recognized standard of proficiency, also an independent Board of Examiners whose certificate qualifies for legal registration. The ideal of the Registrationists is a splendid one. It seems to us a pity—nay, a shame, to fall short of it as is proposed."

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LIMITED.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY.

Miss Mary S. Rundle has been appointed Secretary. Miss Rundle was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C., where she subsequently held the positions of Night Superintendent and Assistant Housekeeper. She has also been Night Sister, Sister Housekeeper and Acting Assistant-Matron at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C. In 1910, she was selected by the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital to hold the Isla Stewart Scholarship at Teachers' College, Columbia University, U.S.A., for a year; and in July, 1912, was appointed Matron of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, E.C., an appointment she has held till the present time. As a member of the Territorial Force Nursing Service she was mobilized as Matron of No. 1 General (City of London) Hospital, Camberwell, on Miss Acton's selection for service abroad in 1915.

The office to which Miss Rundle has now been appointed will be no sinecure. There are now two strong parties in the nursing world—the constitutional registrationists, and those who, through the College of Nursing, have recently declared their adherence to the principle of State Registration. But until the two have met in conference to discuss the possibility of an agreed Bill, it will not be known whether the latter have advanced sufficiently to accept the principle of direct representation of the Nursing Profession on its own Governing Body, as provided in the Nurses' Registration Bill, approved both by the Houses of Lords and Commons. Whatever standards for registration are adopted by the present Council of the College will be enforced without the consent of the profession at large, as it is a body appointed by the seven lay signatories of the College Company, and is not directly elected by trained nurses themselves.

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