

Queen's Nurses are in touch with the activities of the various public authorities in relation to the safeguarding of infant life, maternity and child welfare, and schools for mothers, and have rendered valuable help in this connection. In the opinion of the Council it is of the greatest importance that Health Visitors should possess proper qualifications, and that, wherever possible, the duties should be combined with those of district nurse and midwife, as district nurses, with their special training, and intimate knowledge of the people and their homes, are far better fitted to undertake the various duties which arise from legislation connected with public health, than women whose knowledge is chiefly theoretical.

An exciting and plucky rescue of a child was made near the Ladies' Swimming Tent at Hartlepool on Saturday. A child about three years of age had fallen into the water, and was washed out to sea about thirty yards before being noticed by a number of hospital nurses. One of them, Nurse E. A. Mitchell, although fully dressed, at once plunged into the water and brought the child to safety. Artificial respiration had to be resorted to before the child recovered. We congratulate Nurse E. A. Mitchell on her promptness and courage.

Miss Annie W. Goodrich was elected President of the American Nurses' Association at New Orleans for a second term of office. The Association shows its wisdom in retaining this splendid and liberal-minded leader as its chief executive officer for another year. Would that we had women of her fearless calibre on this side of the Atlantic: we sorely need them.

SCOTTISH MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

By kind invitation of the Matron, Miss Bowhill, the New Royal Infirmary, Perth, was the place of meeting of the Scottish Matrons' Association on Saturday, May 27th. Miss Gill, R.R.C., presided, and thirty-three members were present.

The summer meeting is usually somewhat informal, and after the usual preliminaries the only business before the members was the approval and adoption of the conditions and rules of the Edith Cavell Memorial Annuity Fund. It was reported that a sum of nearly £1,200 was invested and that applications for annuities could now be considered by the Hon. Secretary, Miss Graham, 15, Alva Street, Edinburgh.

After votes of thanks to the Chairman and to Miss Bowhill, there was ample time for a visit to the beautiful new hospital, which was bathed in sunshine and holds a most cheerful position on rising ground.

The proceedings of the day concluded with a delightful tea served in the Nurses' Home.

THE PADDINGTON AND ST. MARYLEBONE DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION.

By the courtesy of Mrs. G. R. Edwards, the Annual Meeting of the above Association took place at 22, New Cavendish Street, on June 1st.

The Mayor of St. Marylebone, who occupied the chair, announced that the following ladies had sent letters of regret for non-attendance: Lady Foley, Lady Robert Cecil, Miss Amy Hughes, Mrs. Shore Nightingale and others. In moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet the Mayor said that he much regretted to learn that the expenditure for the year 1915 had exceeded the income by £96 19s. Nevertheless much good work had been done, and strict economy practised under the most able management of the Superintendent Miss Marsters. It was gratifying to hear that the subscriptions and donations had only decreased about £25. The report shows that the work in the two boroughs has greatly increased in the course of the year. Mr. W. F. Richmond, Chairman of the Association, reminded the audience that the increase in maintenance had risen £60, and that further help to support this splendid work was badly needed. He spoke in high terms of the very efficient work of the Superintendent and her staff, and the gratitude due to them from the boroughs.

Sir Malcolm Morris, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S., in a brief review of the history of Nursing, paid a generous tribute of praise to the "Sister Profession." "It is impossible to say," he observed, "how much the medical profession owes to it." Continuing, he referred to some important dates which mark the progress made since 1844, when Charles Dickens, in his immortal work "Martin Chuzzlewit," showed the need of trained nursing. The next important date, the speaker said, was 1854, which recalled the Crimean War and the brilliant achievements of Florence Nightingale, who, upon her return home, established a school of nursing. He expressed his admiration for the great work of Sir E. Cook, namely his "Life of Florence Nightingale," which he rightly stated was written by a master, implying that it was the duty of all to read it. Sir Malcolm, in the course of his eloquent speech, remarked that the two professions—Medical and Nursing—were intercommunicable, "neither is greater nor less than the other." The fraternal spirit of this remark will be appreciated by all nurses. The speaker said he believed that as the nursing profession grew out of the Crimean War, so in like manner something remarkable would be the outcome of this terrible war.

The natural product of the war on the nursing side should, of course, be the organisation of the profession by Act of Parliament on a thoroughly sound professional basis, which can only be attained by a liberal degree of self-government by *direct representation*.

Percy Harris, Esq., M.P. for South Paddington,

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