

We were all interested—perhaps especially those of us who were midwives—in the ancient and curious parturition chairs, one being a model of one used in Ancient Greece. We are perhaps none of us too learned in the history of practical medicine and nursing; let us repair the fault by paying many visits to this historical and educative Museum.

THE BUSINESS MEETING.

The President, Miss M. Heather-Bigg, R.R.C. presided at the meeting, at which there was a large attendance of members, and the Hon. Secretary read apologies from others unable to be present.

The Hon. Secretary, Miss A. E. Hulme, presented letters which had been received from the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland, and reported the action taken by the Hon. Officers, which was endorsed.

Applications for membership were received from Miss L. Ramsden, Matron of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, and Miss E. G. Gale, Matron, Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital, Boscombe, Hants. Both ladies were elected.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick reported the situation on nursing politics up to date, and said the Petition sent to the King in Council by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses in regard to the proposed Supplemental Charter for the amalgamation of the College of Nursing, Ltd., with the Association as the Royal British College of Nursing had been considered by the Privy Council. It took exception to certain clauses in the Supplemental Charter, and in a letter to the Association defined what it would and would not grant. It declined to grant the monopoly of economic power involved in sanctioning the clauses providing for "the making and maintaining an official Register of persons qualified to act as Nurses," and "to promote legislation to provide for the State recognition and protection of the official Register," and would merely grant powers to the proposed Royal British College of Nursing for "The making and maintaining of a Register of persons qualified *in the opinion of the Corporation* to act as nurses" and "to promote legislation to provide for the State recognition of and protection of an official Register." The Council of the R.B.N.A. rightly considered that if they agreed to these limitations they would not obtain any real increase of powers in the new Charter beyond those already given by the old, and came to the conclusion that it would not be in the interest of the Corporation to accept the alterations suggested.

As President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, Mrs. Fenwick said she had received a letter from the Clerk to the Council informing her that he was directed by the Lords of the Council to state that the Petitioners had decided not to proceed with their application. She thought that the nurse members of the Association who took the initiative and refused to give up their Charter were to be congratulated on their action.

When the "Society for the Higher Education and Training of Nurses," whose constitution was practically identical with that of the College of Nursing, Ltd., sought power to incorporate without the word Ltd. before the Board of Trade, the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses and a number of other opposing societies were represented at the hearing. This time the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was alone in sending a Petition to the Privy Council. The result was a lesson never to permit any injustice to go by default.

The Charter of the Royal British Nurses' Association gave the nurses great powers, and there were signs that its members were beginning to appreciate them.

The business meeting then terminated.

LA PANNE.

Miss E. M. Cancellor, who has recently returned from Belgium, then gave an interesting account of the Hôpital de l'Océan at La Panne, the large Belgian Hospital between Dunkirk and Nieuport. When the large naval guns at Nieuport bombarded Dunkirk the shells always passed overhead at La Panne, and at any time one might fall short. Out of war time La Panne would be a charming place in which to spend a holiday; the sea was lovely and the sands dunes covered with wild flowers.

Miss Cancellor described the organization of the hospital for the nucleus of which Dr. Depage had taken the Ocean Hotel. The many single bedrooms in this central building were charming for the patients but trying for the nurses. The wooden huts were arranged in pairs containing 250 beds, each had a separate surgical staff, and each surgeon was practically always operating on the same class of injury. There was a women's ward which received operative cases, and cases of injury from bombs and shells, and any civil cases needing treatment were also received.

For the gas cases, pipes of oxygen were laid on; there was also an eye ward and a Swedish Massage Department; in fact all cases but medical ones were received. The surgical work was very thorough, and in all cases of shock, or if the patient was collapsed the blood pressure was taken. The laboratory work was also very thorough, and an American lady spent nearly all her time examining clothing and fragments of shrapnel for the tetanus germ.

Miss Cancellor said that no doubt those present understood the Carrel Treatment, owing to the excellent articles which had appeared in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. Microbe charts were kept at La Panne.

The patients included at first Belgians, French, a few British wounded, and German prisoners. When the British Army came up the English military authorities said that the hospital was in much too dangerous a position. At the beginning of July there was a great influx of patients. Dr. Depage organized eight-hourly shifts for the

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