

that the nurses objected most strongly to this lack of representation for this vital period, during which the principal regulations affecting their profession would be made.

The Union also held a Round Table Conference in the spring, and a public one at the College of Ambulance in December, when, amongst a number of valuable papers, that by the Hon. Albinia Brodrick on "Professional Organization and Development" made a profound impression.

It is evident that the nurses in the three kingdoms, who are free from the control of hospital committees, will, whenever a Nurses' Registration Bill is introduced into the House of Commons, make a stand, on the issues now clearly defined, to obtain a just measure giving them economic independence and adequate powers of self-government.

#### QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Major Chapple and other Members of Parliament have rendered valuable service by the questions which they have asked in the course of the year in the House of Commons, thus keeping the question of Nurses' Registration before the public.

In reply to a question by Mr. McCallum Scott, the Prime Minister promised through the Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board that before any Bill for the State Registration of Nurses is introduced by the Government, consideration shall be given to the representations of the organized nurses in England, Scotland, and Ireland—a most important and satisfactory answer to have obtained.

We conclude this Review on a hopeful note.

#### R.I.P.

Triumphant hosts of England's best  
Who come no more again,  
God's Peace enfold your honoured rest  
Beyond the end of pain.

And you, who ventured fearlessly,  
Dear life upon the deep,  
God rest you where He knows you be  
'Neath all the seas asleep.

He marks each quiet resting-place  
Oh! patient, waiting Dead,  
The lonely and the signless space  
O'er each heroic head.

God crown with His eternal bliss  
The selfless path you trod;  
None e'er "had greater love than this,"  
For land, for friend, for God.

C. B. M.

## SOCIAL SERVICE.

### THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF ST. KATHARINE.

The Royal College of St. Katharine, which is now situated at Bromley Hall, Brunswick Road, in the extreme end of Poplar, is a survival of the old St. Katharine's Royal Hospital situated where now are St. Katharine's Docks. It was originally founded by Matilda, wife of King Stephen, 1148, and the Charter renewed by Queen Eleanor, wife of Edward I. The patronage is vested in the Queens of England, and forms part of their dower. It was at the desire of Queen Alexandra that the work was established in its present quarters. Owing to war conditions the new buildings are in abeyance.

St. Katharine's now devotes its energies to the work of infant welfare, and with this Centre three other clinics in the neighbourhood are connected. The Centre has found temporary quarters in some private houses which have been adapted for the purpose. Here a flourishing clinic and Infant Welfare is at work. A distinctive feature of this Centre is its dental department. It possesses a fully equipped dentist's room, and a West End dentist kindly places his services at the disposal of the authorities on certain days. Here ante-natal as well as post-natal dentistry is performed, and excellent results have followed as regards improvement in the mother's health, and also a markedly beneficial effect from the point of view of breast feeding. Special attention is paid to breast feeding at St. Katharine's. The visiting nurses have done wonders in re-starting suckling when it had been practically discontinued, in a few cases after a period of some weeks. We were fortunate enough to be allowed to see the clinic at work on one afternoon. The cheery waiting-rooms were occupied by mothers and babies, the latter in various stages of undress waiting to be weighed, babies of all ages, from the lusty youngster who toddled along delightedly in a state of nature to the scales, to the tiny infant of a few weeks old.

A pathetic picture was a young mother in widow's weeds with her five weeks' old baby. Small wonder that we were told that her little one did not come up to the satisfactory standard of her former children, for she brought it forth in sorrow. It was pleasant to note that, notwithstanding the present tea shortage, the mothers were enjoying their cherished cup of this favourite beverage. Is there anyone who would grudge it them?

Mr. Waller, from the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell, was holding the clinic,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)