

Mrs. Berry showed many interesting slides—one of the harbour of Odessa, which is frozen over for six months in the year. The sleighs, with their bright coloured nets for protecting the passengers from the powdered snow, she described as very picturesque. It is quite a common thing to see three horses abreast drawing a sleigh—more rarely four; the horses are specially trained for the work—those inside to trot, those outside to amble.

Another interesting illustration was that of a white funeral. Not only children, but all unmarried people in Odessa, seem to be entitled to such a funeral, where, excepting for the gorgeous robes of the priests, everything is white.

At Odessa, everyone was keen for revolution. The Germans, by pamphlets scattered from aeroplanes, endeavoured to sow bad blood between the allies.

The hospital at Galatz was established with a house as the centre and tents for wards; the Matron was Miss Moore, and an important person was the "Econome." Just inside the gate they erected a tent where all the patients who were not too ill were washed on admission.

In regard to the patients, the lecturer said they liked the Russians very much and they bore pain extremely well.

The Rumanians made much more fuss, though they also were good patients.

The proceedings concluded with votes of thanks to Mrs. Dickinson Berry, proposed by the Chairman; and Miss Macdonald's services in the chair were warmly acclaimed.

On Thursday, March 7th, Miss Thurston, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, New Zealand Expeditionary Force, presides at a lecture by Sir Edward Sullivan, on "Irish Bulls"; and on Thursday, March 14th, H.R.H. the Princess Christian will preside at a lecture on "Formation of Character," by Sir Dyce Duckworth. The lectures will be given at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., at 2.45.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LIMITED.

Mr. Herbert Paterson, Hon. Medical Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association sends us the following communication:—

"Since my former letter was written my attention has been called to an addition to Sir Arthur Stanley's letter published in the last issue of *The Hospital*. The Editor adds an introductory note, stating that "the final paragraph proves beyond dispute that some of Mr. Paterson's statements in regard to the College are devoid of foundation in fact." I should be interested to learn which of my statements are devoid of "foundation in fact."

Sir Arthur Stanley does not attempt to deny

that the alterations in Clause (b) were withheld from the knowledge of the Council of the R.B.N.A., for the simple reason that he cannot do so, but instead he makes the irrelevant suggestion that this action was taken by a member of the Council in his capacity of an Honorary Officer. For what reason or by what right this unusual course was taken Sir Arthur does not explain. There was no innuendo intended or implied in my recital of this occurrence. I stated a fact, which is not disputed, and adduced that fact as evidence that some importance was attached to the alterations in Clause (b). I made no comment as to whether it was right or wrong to withhold such a communication from the Council, so that the alterations proposed were not brought to their notice for nearly three months.

In a postscript to his letter Sir Arthur Stanley states that the College of Nursing stands for State Registration of Nurses, for a uniform curriculum, for a one-portal examination, and a minimum period of three years' training in a recognised general Hospital.

By what process of reasoning Sir Arthur can reconcile this postscript with the first part of his letter is not easy to see. They are absolutely contradictory.

Sir Arthur has already admitted that under the Supplemental Charter as amended, there "cannot be a uniform curriculum and a uniform standard," and he has affirmed that the Council of the College of Nursing were prepared to accept the Supplemental Charter as amended, although on his own showing the amendments did away with the principles for which, later on, he states the College stands!

Surely, then, my contention is justified. The College Council cannot attach vital importance to these principles or they would not have been prepared to accept the Supplemental Charter in its amended form.

The principles, therefore, of the College stand on a foundation which Sir Arthur has already demolished in the first part of his letter.

Lastly, may I point out that it is somewhat remarkable that neither in the Memorandum or Articles of Association of the College of Nursing, Ltd., nor in the Registration Bill drafted by the College, is there any stipulation for a minimum period of training or a one-portal examination. If, therefore, the Council of the College stands for these principles to-day, it may throw them to the winds to-morrow, as they were prepared to, on Sir Arthur Stanley's own admission, in order to become amalgamated with the Royal British Nurses' Association.

The reply sent by Mr. Paterson to the letter of Sir Arthur Stanley in the *Times* has not been inserted, so that it is not only the nurses who are excluded from expressing an opinion on their own professional affairs in this newspaper, but anyone who ventures to differ from the statements of the supporters of the College of Nursing, Ltd.

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