

resemblance ends. "There is no fettering and cramping lay control. American surgeons would not put up with it and American laymen are too sensible to attempt it. The hospital is managed by a committee of one—a medical man.

"In this country," said Mr. Paterson, "the nursing profession suffers in the same way as does the medical profession; they are fighting the same battle, the battle of freedom from lay control. In the past, British surgery has led the world—why has it fallen behind? Simply for this reason: history teaches us that medical and other sciences flourish in proportion as they have been freed from lay control. This is only one of the many ways in which in this country progress has been hampered by the subordination of science to ignorance and the elasticity of freedom by unintelligent lay control. It is an inexplicable peculiarity of ours that the expert is made subservient to the administrator; and usually the administrator, it would seem, is specially chosen for his ignorance of what he has got to administer."

A picture was shown of Mr. Will Mayo operating, and Sister José helping him. She has been doing so for 17 years, "so," said Mr. Paterson, "you will judge she is 'some' assistant." The nurse who acts as anæsthetist has given from 60,000 to 70,000 anæsthesias. In Mr. Paterson's opinion nurses make excellent anæsthetists. He had a word to say of American nursing history, and the publication of the first professional journal for nurses, *The Nightingale*, which called forth the criticism that "a magazine for nurses was uncalled for, improper, and capable of doing harm." It was not, he said, creditable to this country to remember that though the British Nurses' Association was founded in 1887 with the object of instituting a system of registration for nurses, and that for thirty years the nursing profession in this country has been trying to secure State Registration, they have not yet done so. He narrated that in 1893 a Nursing Conference, at the suggestion of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was held in connection with the World's Fair at Chicago, and from that date events moved rapidly. . . . The subject of nurses' registration was not broached in the United States until 1901, but, in 1903, Acts for the registration of trained nurses were passed in four States, and at the present time such Acts were in force in at least 46 States.

"I am afraid," said Mr. Paterson, "the medical profession in this country is not altogether free from blame for the state of affairs which exists here, but it is largely one of the results of the lay control which has hampered the future of our national life. As one of our nurses (Miss Beatrice Kent) said at an American Conference, "In intention and volition we are just as enthusiastic as they (the American nurses), but where barriers which formerly checked them have been broken down, making them free to advance, we are still fettered by obstinacy, stupidity and lack of imagination on the part of those in power. They are free to advance and make splendid use of their activity."

It is almost incredible, said Mr. Paterson, that up to the present time the nurses have not been able to get that justice from the press in this country which has been a feature of the press in the past.

This state of things cannot and must not continue. The work of the nursing profession in this war has been so self-sacrificing and magnificent that common justice will compel Parliament to listen to the representations of the profession, and to grant what is their just due, in spite of the opposition of interested persons.

Mr. Paterson expressed the opinion that the training of American nurses is more systematic and thorough than that in this country. Americans are nothing if not thorough, and American nurses aim at and attain a very high standard and are ever aiming at a higher.

"A visit to America is," said Mr. Paterson, "a liberal education and a most delightful experience.

"To know brother Jonathan you must visit him at home. If you do, I feel sure you will understand his intense patriotism, and that you will leave his shores with regret, wondering which to admire the more—the energy, the industry and the organisation which have developed the resources of that wonderful country so rapidly; or the personal charm of its wonderful and hospitable inhabitants."

At the conclusion of the lecture Mr. Percival White conveyed the thanks of the meeting to the American Ambassador for so kindly presiding, and Miss Beatrice Kent spoke appreciatively of the pleasure Mr. Paterson had given by his lecture, and from personal experience endorsed what he had said as to the educative value of a visit to America.

#### COURSE OF LECTURES.

A course of lectures will be given under the auspices of the Royal British Nurses' Association at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W. 1, as under:—

The day will be Thursday and the time 2.45 p.m. in each instance.

*January 24th.*—"The Preservation of Child Life" (illustrated by lantern views). Lady Barrett, M.D. Chair: H.R.H. the Princess Arthur of Connaught.

*February 7th.*—"The Royal Observatory, Greenwich" (illustrated by lantern views). Sir Frank Dyson, Astronomer Royal.

*February 28th.*—"Tales of Old London." Miss Lucy Bell.

*March 7th.*—"Irish Bulls." Sir Edward Sullivan.

*March 14th.*—"Formation of Character." Sir Dyce Duckworth. Chair: H.R.H. the Princess Christian.

*April 4th.*—"Some Points in Personal Hygiene." Leonard Williams, Esq., M.D. Chair: Percival White, Esq., M.D.

No charge for admission to the lectures will be made, but there will be a collection to defray expenses, which are considerable.

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