

## AN ANTI-COLLEGE TALK WITH NURSES.

It was with feelings of trepidation that I wrote asking permission to address the nurses of "The Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow" on the Nurses' Registration Bill. Memories of snubs received by other members of the N.U.T.N. floated through my mind—still I wrote. The Glasgow press printed both sides of the question, perhaps the hospital authorities are not so autocratic as in other (misguided!) cities. In return I received an invitation from the Superintendent, Dr. McKenzie, and the Matron, Miss Rodger, to address both night and day nurses, and asking me to state the day proposed, so that arrangements might be made and the lecture advertised! Scotland is apparently still the land of the free!

The Victoria Infirmary occupies a fine elevated site on the south side of the Clyde, and is the newest General Hospital in the city. The beds number 300, and the nursing staff about ninety.

On arrival I was met by Miss Rodger, who has been recalled from active service to conduct the affairs of her old training school. I expressed my appreciation of the attitude she and the Superintendent had assumed with regard to my visit, and the Matron's reply might well receive the consideration of many Matrons and Superintendents of hospitals. Dr. McKenzie had said, when the Matron showed him my letter, "I don't see we have any right to refuse the nurses hearing both sides of the Registration question if they wish to do so and I quite agreed with him."

That shows the right spirit, and members of the nursing staffs will be the first to appreciate it. There was a spirit of anticipation in the corridors, nurses hurrying to get ready for the "Lecture." One nurse on special duty came to ask permission to wait up, even though she might be required again at 4 a.m.! These were good signs, if probationers will interest themselves and learn the truth, the affairs of the profession need not suffer in the future.

I was glad I had offered to help these nurses, and point out to them the College snares spread so subtly round our feet, snares which have entrapped many who trained with me, and which I only just escaped myself.

At 9 p.m. there was a good assemblage of all ranks of the nursing staff in their spacious and comfortable sitting room. The nurses had come to learn, and I endeavoured to demonstrate the chief points of difference between the two Bills, laying stress on the points *we will not yield*. I warned them of the discrepancies between the College curriculum and its Articles of Association, and called their attention to the repudiation by the College of their pledged word to nurses that their Register would be acknowledged by Parliament and be the official one, and the question then arose as to whether, having obtained many

guineas on the strength of this assurance the College Company *could be sued in a court of law for breach of contract*; this is a nice point which will receive due consideration in this commercial city. In finishing, I told them of the awakening of the R.B.N.A., and left them THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING with the account of that splendid meeting held on December 12th, at which their Treasurer and all College amalgamation schemes had been thrown overboard at last.

Returning next morning at 9.30 to speak to the night nurses, I found awaiting me in the sitting room, a note thanking me for my visit, and to which was appended many signatures. I fully appreciated this personal letter from the nurses—the Matron had thanked me in their name at the close of the meeting—it fully repaid me and made me determined to win more such letters by breaking down the barricades erected round other nurses' homes. I wonder is it not a misnomer to call such buildings "Homes"? Would the correct word not rather be—Cages?

J. B. N. P.

## THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF TRAINED MASSEUSES.

The Special Conference Number of the Journal of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, just issued, will be very welcome, both to those who attended the Conference, who will be glad to have in print the papers to which they listened with so much pleasure, and to those who were unable to attend, who have in this little volume the majority of the papers read. It has not been possible to include in this issue the extremely interesting lecture by Captain Bristow on "Deformities of the Feet," but it is hoped to publish it in a future one.

The Foreword is contributed by Miss S. Grafton, Chairman of Council, who, by way of introduction, gives a cordial greeting to those who attended the Conference, "particularly the country members whose presence and appreciation gave very real pleasure to their town comrades."

The papers included are: "Muscular Exercise in Relation to the Internal Secretions," by Dr. Pembrey, Lecturer on Physiology at Guy's, delivered at the hospital; "General Massage," by Miss Lucy Robinson, an introduction to a demonstration which, as an example of the perfection which may be attained in the administration of massage, will not soon be forgotten by those who saw it; "The Treatment of Fractures," by Dr. J. B. Mennell, C.M.O., Military Orthopædic Hospital, Shepherd's Bush; "Relaxation," by Mrs. William Archer; "Simple and Easily Made Apparatus for Stiff Joints and Other Injuries," by Mrs. Guthrie Smith, and "Exercises for Heart Patients," by Dr. Justina Wilson.

The Journal may be obtained from the Offices of the Society, 157, Great Portland Street, W. 1, price 1s., post free.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)