

which the matron returned from the holiday which she had been taking, when our letter reached the hospital. Those who wrote the letters, declining to allow their nurses to know both points of view, have pushed their influence, in order to persuade nurses to join the College, almost to the point of coercion, and now, at a time when the destinies of the nurses and the destinies of their profession are being considered by the Imperial Parliament, those people have in effect assumed the responsibility of keepers of the nurses' consciences, lest the truth should make them free in the sense of knowing "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," free to use their own judgment in deciding which side "has the right," free to choose "the right," as they see it for themselves. The only logical conclusion we can arrive at is that those responsible for the decision that their nurses will not hear both sides, are more afraid of the truth than the responsibility which they have taken, one which few people with any knowledge of the trend of modern thought, and modern conceptions of Christianity, would quite care to adopt. Well, we may leave the matter there, but nurses need not again charge the Association with having helped to lead them into the trap by failing to take steps to let them know that there was another side of the lantern to that presented by the College of Nursing Ltd. Recently, a College speaker said that one of the functions of the College was to "teach the nurses history in a nice way." It did not seem to strike this lady that at the present time the profession is busied in making its own history, and that its members have a right to take a hand in this, the right of all British citizens, to hear both points of view, in order that they may take their rightful places as architects of their profession, and not as mere hewers of wood and drawers of water. While those in authority over the nurses adopt their present attitude they need not complain of the "humiliation" arising from a plague of recriminations or of any other plague, for such plagues are the obvious outcome, sooner or later, of tyranny and a lack of justice and fair play.

The Royal British Nurses' Association has been anything but aggressive in the past in its attitude to those who have so consistently and for so many years opposed every effort of its own and of other Societies to organise the profession, and if at last it has "taken off the gloves," those who put the good of the few before that of the greater number have but themselves to thank.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH.

The Reports of the South Australian Branch show continued progress in spite of all the difficulties in administration which have arisen during the war. Thirty-one Nurses were recommended for Registration during the year and the Committee record with deep regret the deaths of Sister Ridgway and Sister Stafford, both of whom were Life Members of the Association. The former

was one of the first of the military sisters to volunteer to nurse influenza. She, with several other sisters, went to West Australia and had only been there a few days when she contracted the disease herself and died. Sister Stafford had been on active service for about three years and then joined for home service. She died from complications resulting from an attack of scarlet fever, and was accorded a military funeral which was attended by large numbers of people.

The following Members of the Association were married during the year: Miss K. A. Phelan to Mr. Fitzgerald, Miss A. W. Christie to Dr. Storey, Miss M. A. Bennett to Mr. Dehlmann and Mrs. Collins to Dr. Mackechnie.

The Committee greatly regret the departure of Lady Galwey from Adelaide, as she has always been a very interested supporter of the Branch Association. Sisters returning from war duty have found the new Club very useful indeed, particularly those whose homes are in the country, and they have very greatly appreciated the kindness shown to them by those in charge of the Home.

HONOUR FOR AN R.B.N.A. MEMBER.

Miss Winitred Walters, Lady Superintendent of the Civil Hospital, Karachi, has received many congratulations upon having received the M.B.E.; among them came a telegram from the Governor of Bombay, emphasising his satisfaction on hearing that this "well deserved" honour had been conferred upon her. Her hospital, like many in England, has had a special "War Section," and large numbers of sick and wounded officers have been treated there. The responsibilities of those entrusted with the administrative work of the hospital have been very great, and her fellow-members unite with her many European and Indian friends in sending to Miss Walters their sincere congratulations.

ASSOCIATION OF TRAINED NURSES IN PUBLIC HEALTH WORK.

We remind our Members, and other nurses, of the Conference, which will take place at 10, Orchard Street, on Saturday, 12th inst., at 3 p.m., when Miss Patrick, Matron of the Training Centre, Babies of the Empire Society, will speak on "The Organisation of Public Health Work in New Zealand with special relation to the Royal Society for the Health of Women and Children."

The lecture should prove of the greatest interest to all nurses who are interested in Welfare Work, and we hope that there will be a large attendance. Miss Patrick is well known in connection with the teaching of Dr. Truby King at the above-named centre, and her lecture is sure to prove extremely enlightening and helpful.

(Signed) ISABEL MACDONALD.
Secretary to the Corporation.

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