

amount of work for nothing, nor could they strike. None the less, it was a secular body of men of business, whose object was to gain a livelihood; and many of them could not earn so much as they deserved, but were overworked, underpaid, put-upon, ill-organised, and ill represented. He longed for every one of them to have a good time. That is the abiding spirit of all his actions in professional politics. The set scenes for it were (1) the Medical Defence Union, (2) the General Medical Council, (3) the Royal College of Surgeons, (4) the British Medical Association."

Amongst the questions in connection with the British Medical Association in which he took a very active and prominent part were the constitution of a Ministry of Public Health and State Registration of Nurses

THE "NASTY COLLEGE."

"How hard he worked is shown by the mass of his correspondence, notes for addresses, minutes, of meetings, reports, and press cuttings . . . the registration of nurses in England occupied him even in Mesopotamia; he writes to Dr. Alfred Cox, on May 15th, 1916; he is angry over the new College of Nursing, and says unkind things of its supporters: 'I have just received the report of the conference between — and the Registrationists. It is very difficult out here, some three hundred miles up the Tigris, in a burning mud flat in the middle of cholera, dysentery, diarrhoea, &c., &c., &c., to judge exactly what is being done at home, but it is quite clear that all the old enemies of the B.M.A. are behind — and pushing his nasty College for all they are worth. It seems to me that it being only a manoeuvre to push off Registration, the B.M.A. ought to support Chapple and his Bill more actively. Also that our present representatives on the Central Committee to run the Bill must do much more to fight this vile private hole-in-the-corner arrangement. Considering that we have been working for twenty-five years, it is a little too much to see the whole thing jockeyed. . . . The idea of starting a College, not a truly educational body, but the sham archaic examinational institute for private registration that we have suffered from so bitterly all these years, is so like the enemies of liberty. . . . It is very annoying being in all this chaos of folly and not able to help at home."

THE FIGHT AGAINST ALCOHOL.

His strenuous fight against alcohol was only one of his many activities. "After 1900 Horsley led the fight against alcohol in this country. It had many leaders, but none quite equal to him, with his authority in science and practice, his mastery of the art of lecturing, his constant use of a wealth of diagrams and lantern slides, his courtesy towards his audiences. It is possible that his lectures would have been the better for more lightness; there is a pleasant touch of relief in one of them, where he describes our three most British institutions—John Bull, Father Christmas, and Henry VIII—as examples of fatty degenera-

tion due to chronic alcoholism; but these touches are rare."

WHY WASTE A MINUTE?

Mr. Paget relates a story told by Miss Lowenstein, who wanted his help to get the teaching of hygiene and temperance introduced into schools, by means of a petition from the medical profession to the Board of Education. He set to work at once and Miss Lowenstein came to London "to fetch and carry." She remembers him at Cavendish Square, one evening, coming in just at dinner time, and asking her to get out some papers. "The gong will sound in a minute," she said. "And why should we waste a minute?" he said, and took the papers to the dining-room, corrected a proof with his left hand, fed himself with his right, and joined in the talk. It was always easy for him to do two or three things at the same time, or, as Charles Beevor said, "Horsley has three brains."

(To be concluded.)

LEGAL MATTERS.

A case of considerable interest and importance to nurses, especially those engaged in private practice, was heard in the Bloomsbury Court, Great Portland Street, W., by His Honour Judge Bray, on April 20th. The plaintiffs were the Mental Nurses' Association, Ltd., 54, George Street, Manchester Square, W., who sued Nurse Mary Downie, formerly in their employment, for breach of agreement in respect to a private case to which she was originally sent by them. The Judge, after hearing the evidence, reserved judgment. We hope to refer at length to this case next week.

PSYCHOLOGY OF THE SPRING HAT.

How the spring sunshine shows up the pin-pricks and other defects of one's winter hat! And the new season's models now being shown in their recently extended showrooms by "Mills," 296, Regent Street, break all one's good resolutions as to renovations of last year's chapeaux. One simply must have something fresh and flowery. What ever may be the psychological influence of other items of dress, a new hat makes a new woman of us all!

COMING EVENTS.

April 24th.—Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses. Meeting, Council Chamber, by kind permission of the British Medical Association, 429, Strand, W.C. 2.30 p.m.

April 24th.—Professional Union of Trained Nurses. A meeting will be held at King George's Hall (London Central Y.M.C.A.), Tottenham Court Road. 2.30 p.m.

April 30th.—Matrons' Council Quarterly Meeting. Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, N.E.

May 1st.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Inspection of Banner and Royal Charter, 10, Orchard St., Portman Square, W. Tea 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)