

her property to the British Women's Hospital at Richmond for totally disabled soldiers and sailors injured in the war.

A history of the Asylum War Hospitals in England and Wales, compiled by Sir Marriott Cooke and Dr. D. C. Hubert Bond, Commissioners of the Board of Control, has been issued as a White Paper (Cd. 899). In all 24 asylums were turned into war hospitals, which provided, with some hutments, 27,778 permanent beds. The number of patients treated in them up to May this year was 482,949, approximately equivalent to more than one-sixth of the total number of sick and wounded men from all fronts during the war.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

THE WOMEN'S PROTEST.

The determination of women to avert a miners' strike is growing rapidly. Resolutions of protest against it are now pouring in to the National Political League headquarters from every part of England and Scotland. The date of the League's Conference is now fixed for Wednesday, September 22nd, at the Central Hall, Westminster. Miners' wives from every coalfield area will be present as well as wives of transport workers and railwaymen. All communications should be addressed to Headquarters, National Political League, Bank Buildings, 16, St. James's Street, London, S.W.1.

WHAT EVERYONE IS READING.

Everyone who possibly can do so is reading "The First World War, 1914-1918." The Diaries of Lieut.-Colonel C. A. Repington.

"Through Bolshevist Russia." By Mrs. Philip Snowden.

"German War in the Air" in the *Times* articles, which are based on a remarkable book entitled "The German Air Force in the Great War," and which give a vivid impression of the Force, as it affected Britain during the war.

COMING EVENTS.

September 17th.—National Union of Trained Nurses: Discussion on "The Hours of Employment Bill." Miss H. L. Pearse (the President) will speak.

September 22nd.—National Political League. Conference to avert a miners' strike. Central Hall, Westminster, S.W.

September 23rd.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Meeting at the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W. 1.—2 p.m.

October 8th.—Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council Meeting. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4.30 p.m.

October 12th.—Flower Day in London in support of the Edith Cavell Homes of Rest for Nurses.

October 12th and following day.—Central Midwives Board for Ireland Examination, Dublin, Belfast, Cork. Particulars from Secretary, 33, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

THE DIARY OF OPAL WHITELEY.*

"SACRED IN ITS REVELATION OF A CHILD'S SOUL."

"As I did go I did have hearings of many voices, they were the voices of the earth glad for the spring. They did say what they had to say in the growing grass and in the leaves growing out from the tips of branches. The birds did have knowing and sang what the grasses and leaves did say of the gladness of living. I, too, did feel glad feels from my toes to my curls."

This book, just published, promises to be one of the most widely discussed of the season. And with good reason. It is the genuine authentic diary of a child of between six and seven years' old, written about fourteen years ago. The young authoress is ignorant of her history, but she dimly remembers the "Angel Mother" and "Angel Father" of whom death robbed her in her fifth year. How she came to be adopted by the Oregon lumber man and his wife is not known, but it was under their roof that this diary was written.

Lord Grey of Fallodon who writes the introduction, is of opinion that from her reminiscence her parents were two persons of rare beauty of mind and feeling, and in the preface by Mr. Ellery Sedgwick, it is concluded that she is of French origin; and it is a reasonable inference that her father was a naturalist by profession or natural taste.

She possessed two precious little copy books which held their photographs, and into which her mother had taught her to set down all she had learned both of the world about her, and of that older world of legend and history with which the diarist shows such capricious and entertaining familiarity. These valuable records were taken from her at the age of twelve for reasons beyond her knowledge.

Her astounding knowledge of the names of the good and great is probably due to the notebooks left by her parents.

Her own diary, the work of many years, was torn up in a fit of temper by her foster sister, and this book is the outcome of the fragments collected by the child, and which have been pieced together with marvellous patience and skill.

A necessary appendage of the book is a list of the characters in the diary, which the reader will be glad to consult from time to time as our extracts will show.

The task of making these extracts is a difficult one, for the whole book is one of rare charm and delight; and the flights of imagination of this little lonely disciple of St. Francis, are as delicate and subtle as the dust on the wings of a butterfly. At one moment the reader will be moved to tears by the pathos of the child's rough usage and the next will break into smiles at the delightfully humorous situations she creates.

The first chapter gives an outline of her life with the lumber man's wife. "One way the

* London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, Ltd.

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