

regard to the disease; the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease works chiefly on the lines recommended by that Commission. In addition to urging the need of early and continued attendance at treatment centres, its work is largely educational, as it is held that, unless we can make the whole nation realise how serious is the problem, little will be gained. Free clinics have been established by the Government in many parts of the country, and the last report of the Ministry of Health showed that the attendance at those exceeded a million in twelve months, and the numbers are steadily increasing. Wherever practicable those clinics should form part of a general hospital. If, in some of the smaller towns, institutions could be equipped where the disease could be treated by the local medical men, long journeys for the patients would often be avoided and many more might persevere with the treatment.

Miss Cancellor regretted that the nurses as a whole take comparatively little interest in the disease, and, indeed, the attitude of other nurses to those engaged at the centres for the treatment of venereal diseases is much to be deplored; many nurses so engaged had stated that they were treated, by those in general branches of nursing, as being of quite a different class.

Miss Cancellor spoke very strongly of the need for education in the nursing of Venereal Disease, and deplored, also, the lack of legislation dealing with prostitution. She also referred to the fact that, although a patient suffering from Venereal Disease goes into hospital, there is no law to force him or her to continue the treatment until such time as he ceases to be a menace to others.

Many other interesting points were referred to, and it is much to be regretted that the space at our disposal prevents us from giving a full report. Those who were present said that they had rarely listened to a lecturer with so much power to make her subject interesting. As one nurse remarked, she had quite dispelled the feeling that the topic was in any way "common or unclean," and by a certain bright earnestness held the attention right to the close of the lecture, which lasted over an hour. At its close, Miss Cancellor answered questions on many points, and several nurses also gave their views in regard to matters connected with the subject of the lecture. One nurse, whose name is unfortunately unknown to us, gave some exceedingly interesting information as to the treatment of the disease in prisons, and Miss Sadlier's rehearsal of her first experience in hospital in the nursing of Venereal Disease was highly realistic and amusing; evidently there had been considerable difficulty in persuading her that, even to the meaning of the word syphilis itself, a state of ignorance was one of bliss.

At the close of the Conference, Resolutions were put from the Chair, to be forwarded respectively to the Minister of Health and the Education Committee of the General Nursing Council, recommending the establishment of post-graduate courses on venereal diseases for nurses in Public Health

Work, and expressing the hope that the General Nursing Council will provide that adequate experience in the nursing of these diseases shall form part of every nurse's training in the future.

#### WEDDING.

On Saturday, 22nd inst., at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, by the Rev. Archibald Fleming, Miss Amy May Browett was married to Capt. McLundie. Members of the Association unite in sending their good wishes. Mrs. McLundie takes a very great interest in the welfare and organisation of her profession. We are glad to learn that she intends to continue to do so, and that her future home will be in London.

#### OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret that we report the death, on January 12th, at 28, Penywern Road, Earl's Court, of Miss Gabrielle Cuff, second daughter of the late Dr. Cuff, of Harting, Petersfield. Miss Cuff was trained at the Portsmouth Royal Hospital, and the Eastern Hospital, Homerton, and became a Member of the Royal British Nurses' Association in 1894.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### WAKE UP NURSES.

To the Secretary of THE R.B.N.A.

DEAR MADAM,—I was very interested in the report of the Friend of Nurses in last week's Journal. I do wish the nurses would wake up to the dangers to themselves of this widespread public begging on their behalf which, it seems to most of us, results in nothing but a lowering of our professional status. It will take us years to right the wrong of all this undignified public begging. You know what some of us feel, could you have an article in the Supplement pointing out our views. Thank you for not running the Annuity Fund at least, into street posters, tin collection boxes, flag days, victory balls and the advertisement columns of the newspapers alternately with the Waifs and Strays and victims of venereal disease.

Another subject for you to deal with is nurses' uniforms. Try to get rid of the dirty white handkerchief covered with a weather-beaten blue veil, a "uniform" now shared with the perambulator nurses. Also may I point out the extreme bad taste of ultra transparent silk stockings and high heels for trained nurses on duty.

I am, yours very truly,

ALICE CATTELL.

#### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Members are reminded that their Annual Subscriptions to the Association fell due on January 1st, and that it complicates very considerably the work of the Association when they are not paid up to date.

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

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