

A NOBLE EXAMPLE.

The proposal to found a scholarship or a lecture, in memory of Sir Victor Horsley will, we feel sure, be received very sympathetically by numbers of nurses, to whom his name stands for chivalry, sympathy, and forceful action in relation to their demand for registration under State Authority, a reform in which he was deeply interested, but unfortunately did not live to see.

A strenuous and fruitful life was consummated by a self-sacrificing death, and the lonely grave in Mesopotamia is a holy place, the memory of which should inspire those whose privilege it was to know Sir Victor Horsley to emulate his noble example. Crowned with professional laurels and honour, possessed of wealth and supremely happy in his home relations, he willingly offered all when the need arose, on the altar of patriotism, consumed with a burning desire to serve his country, and to alleviate suffering.

The Hon. Treasurers of the Fund are Sir Frederick Mott, K.B.E., F.R.S., 25, Nottingham Place, W.1, and Dr. Howard Tooth, C.B., C.M.G., 34, Harley Street, W.1, or contributions may be paid to the Victor Horsley Memorial Account at the London County Westminster & Parr's Bank, Hanover Square Branch, W.1.

REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED.

The whole of the evidence which has been taken by the Special Committee on Venereal Disease, in connection with the Birth Rate Commission, during its inquiry into this problem, is to be published for the benefit of the nation. The evidence deals with the extent of these grave diseases and the means adopted to combat them, in the Army and civil population, and among the British and American troops on the Rhine.

The Committee's report, which will be published with it, will deal with the medical and moral aspects of the problem of disinfection. It is anticipated that the report will arrest public attention by its candour and thoroughness, and result in a united and stronger attempt being made to prevent these racial diseases.

BOND'S MARKING INK.

The question of a satisfactory marking ink is one of great moment to hospital authorities, Superintendents of Nursing Homes, and also to individual nurses and members of the public, for, considering the cost of linen in these days, it is of the utmost importance that it should not be lost because the mark has washed out, or be spoilt because a corrosive ink has eaten a hole in it.

These disasters are avoided by using John Bond's "Crystal Palace" Marking Ink, which may be obtained for using either with, or without, heating. It is sold in 6d. and 1s. bottles, or by the ounce, pint or quart. It is indelible, and has a long standing and world-wide reputation.

PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

A SHORT HISTORY OF NURSING.*

"A History of Nursing," in four volumes, by Miss M. A. Nutting, R.N., and Miss L. L. Dock, R.N., is a classic which will always be an indispensable book of reference, but Miss Dock, in collaboration with Miss Isabel Maitland Stewart, A.M., R.N. (Assistant Professor in the Department of Nursing and Health at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York), has done wisely to prepare a short history, in one volume, for the use of student nurses, which, for the most part, has been condensed from the larger work. The authors state that though Miss Nutting's name does not appear on this volume, it was at her suggestion that the work was undertaken.

WHY WE STUDY NURSING HISTORY.

The "Introductory Outline" sets forth that "No occupation can be quite intelligently followed or correctly understood unless it is, at least to some extent, illumined by the light of history interpreted from the human standpoint. The origin of our various activities, the spirit animating the founders of a profession, and the long struggle toward an ideal as revealed by a search into the past—these vivify and ennoble the most prosaic labours, clarify their relation to all else that humanity is doing, and give to workers an unending inspiration in the consciousness of being one part of a great whole. For example, the labour movement, to those who know its history, appears as a mighty drama to which the uninformed may be quite blind. . . . The nurse, or teacher, who knows only her own time and surroundings is not only deprived of an unending source of interest, she may also be unable to estimate and judge correctly the current events, whose tendency is likely to affect her own career. We must know how our work of nursing arose; what lines it has followed and under what direction it has developed best. Possessing this knowledge, each one may help to guide and influence its future on the highest lines, and, in harmony with its historical mission. . . ."

"The development of the nursing art depends on three things. First, there must be a strong impulse or motive prompting one to care for those who are suffering or helpless. The maternal or parental instinct is the main source of this impulse, and it is found in human beings of all races and ages, and of both sexes, though it is generally held that women, as a rule, are more largely endowed with it than men. . . . This main motive, re-inforced as it has been at different epochs by religious fervour, love of country, and other compelling forces, has, in all ages, led people to lives of service and self-sacrifice for the sake of others. This spirit is essential. Then a certain degree of skill and expertness must be attained.

* Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C., price 17s. 6d.

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