

to the data of astronomical research in ancient China, and referred to many very old historical references to eclipses, mentioning that the first of which we have an absolute record occurred in 1064 B.C.; to the men of Babylon we owe the fact that evidence of its occurrence has survived.

The observations of the astronomer, Sir Norman Lockyer, in connection with the eclipse of 1868 had proved to be of great value, for he had shown how an eclipse could help towards a closer observation of the sun or the moon as the case might be. When observing the eclipse referred to the astronomer observed great flames from the moon's surface. Sir Frank Dyson gave some very interesting information on this, and told how certain gases were discovered to be connected with the condition observed. Photographs were put on the screen showing those flames, which it has been calculated cover an expanse of hundreds of thousands of miles.

Other slides indicated the position of certain planetary bodies during an eclipse, and not the least interesting slides were those which depicted scenes from Sir Frank's travels in many lands, when he was sent out to make certain astronomical observations. One very wonderful photograph showed the peculiar effect of a solar eclipse on the surface of the earth, and others depicted its effect in connection with light.

In thanking Sir Frank Dyson for his lecture, Mr. Paterson spoke of his brilliant career, remarking that he had attained to the highest position that any British Astronomer can—that of Astronomer Royal.

Miss Kent also spoke of the great pleasure which the lecture had given to the nurses, and how intensely interesting they had found it. The members then sat down to the very delightful tea which Miss Holles had arranged for them, and later enjoyed an impromptu concert in the drawing room.

## THE REPORT OF THE AUSTRALIAN BRANCH.

The half-yearly reports of the Australian Branch have just reached us and they show that the daughter Association is in a very healthy condition. There is a steady increase in the Membership and it gives the Committee special pleasure to report that Dr. Ian McNeill's name has been added to the list of medical members.

The private staff of the Branch Association has a very satisfactory report to make, and indeed there were four hundred more calls for nurses than could be met. A kind expression of congratulation and good-will appears in the report in connection with the new enterprise of the parent Association in taking over 194, Queen's Gate, and mention is made of the fact that Miss Graham, late Matron of the Adelaide Hospital, who is now in England, has been elected a member of our Council in London. Reference is also made to the appointment of the Secretary of the Australian Branch of the R.B.N.A.,

to a seat on the Nurses' Board of South Australia, by His Excellency the Governor in Council, under the Nurses' Registration Act, 1921. The Committee congratulate Miss Uren on receiving the Decoration of Honorary Serving Sister to the Grand Priory of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, and also offer their hearty congratulations to the following:—Miss Harrold, appointed Matron of Adelaide Hospital; Miss Davidson, appointed Matron of the Repatriation Hospital, South Australia; Miss Kitson, appointed Matron of the Millicent Hospital; Miss Sinclair, appointed Matron of RuRua Hospital; and Miss Nicholls, appointed Matron of Bedford Park Hospital.

The marriages of Misses Abbott, Jacka, Ledgeley, Macklin, and Paltridge are announced, and with deep regret the Committee report the death of Dr. Poulton, one of the first members of the South Australian Branch. The Committee have welcomed back Dr. Helen Mayo, who has been paying a visit to England, and they also refer to the appointment of Dr. E. W. Morris to a position in London under the Australian Government, and hope that, while in England, he may be able to help the Branch Association.

Incidentally we may mention that it gave a number of our members in residence at the Club, and two of our Medical Honorary Officers who could be present, very great pleasure to meet Dr. and Mrs. Morris when they accepted an invitation to dine at 194, Queen's Gate recently.

## "PROBLEM TALKS."

We have been requested to make the suggestion that nurses should occasionally meet for "a problem talk," when questions of interest could be discussed. It is proposed that such questions should not refer only to professional matters, but to any question on which some discussion might be helpful. The nurse who has asked us to put before our readers the proposal to have "a problem talk" suggests that members send up some subjects on which they would like to have ten minutes' discussion, and later some special afternoon or evening could be set aside for this.

## OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of Miss Miriam Howell, one of the early members of the Association. Miss Howell, for many years, was a Sister at the Middlesex Hospital, where she was held in great respect. After a day on which there had been many operations on patients under her charge, she complained of being tired and then quite suddenly collapsed and died almost immediately. The news of her death has been received with deep sorrow by a wide circle of friends, although they comfort themselves with the thought that she died as she would have wished—in harness.

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

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