

how helpful were good temper, cheerfulness and courtesy to their chances of success.

Miss Pearse also emphasised by many practical remarks, the value of a nurse's training to a Health Visitor. The ability to note all the points in the progress of disease cannot be acquired in less than three years, and also cleanliness, skill and accuracy become almost instinctive in a nurse. Training in General Work should, Miss Pearse considered, include at least a year in an infectious hospital, so that the onset of an infectious illness might be quickly recognised and early mistakes in connection with it avoided.

Miss Pearse referred to the fact that so many poor mothers were overwhelmed with visitors. She had heard of one case where seven of those officials were visiting a house in one week. The right thing would be to get one visitor who could unite in herself all the qualifications for such visiting and the only person who had all those qualifications so united was the trained nurse with the health visitor's certificate. Miss Pearse advised trained nurses to take the Diploma of the Board of Education if they desired to practise as Health Visitors. The length of training required of trained nurses for this was, she said, a year, while two years were required of those without nurses' training. Nurses, however, might well, through the Association of Trained Nurses in Public Health Work for instance, urge upon the authorities the advisability of allowing trained nurses to sit for the Diploma after having done the necessary study in three months. This, she contended, was quite possible for those who had trained for three years in a hospital. In any case, she strongly advised trained nurses to take the Diploma, if only to prevent the market from being flooded with half-trained people. At the present time girls were being taken round with some of the school nurses two afternoons in a week, and it was absurd to maintain that experience gained in this casual way could be equal to a nurse's training. Miss Pearse urged the necessity for patience and good temper when doing health visiting. "You require," she said, "the kindest of hearts and the ability to see at a glance all that each poor mother has to cope with. Let the mothers do most of the talking on the occasion of the first visit. Let them abuse the authorities if they like, let them abuse yourself, too, and do not let a violence that is foreign to yourself cause you to lose patience."

Owing to lack of space we are unable to publish Miss I.e Geyt's very able and original speech, but this will be inserted in an early issue of the Supplement.

#### ENGAGEMENT.

Miss Annie Sansbury is engaged to be married to James Roulet, Esq., and we offer both all our best wishes. The wedding will take place quietly on Monday, April 17th, and a reception will be held afterwards at the Royal British Nurses' Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 7.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Secretary R.B.N.A.

DEAR MISS MACDONALD,—Will you please convey to the Corporation my very grateful thanks for the most beautiful silver bag they so kindly gave me.

I shall greatly treasure it, and when using it shall have a very affectionate remembrance of a pleasant six months spent in helping to inaugurate the Club of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and of meeting and working with so many charming personalities.

Again thanking you.

Yours very sincerely,

B. CUTLER.

Emoyeni, Limpsfield, Surrey.

#### DONATIONS.

The Hon. Treasurer acknowledges with thanks the following donations:—

*General Purposes Fund.*—Miss S. E. Underhill, £1; Mrs. M. Rogers, 11s. 4d.; Miss A. Rider, 10s. 6d.; Miss E. Freear, 7s. 6d.; E. Domville, Esq., M.D., Miss E. Mayou, 5s. 6d.; Misses L. Ball, E. Clifford, C. A. Little, M. J. Little, A. Shepard and Mrs. Sherliker, Mrs. Simons, 5s.; Misses L. Burgin and E. Glanville, 2s. 6d.; Misses A. Hore, J. Innes, M. Piper and M. Thorley, 2s.; Mrs. Holdsworth and Miss N. Winter, 1s. 6d.; Misses E. Balding, E. Bell, M. McDougall, S. Sullivan, L. Wiskin and Mrs. Simpson, 1s.

#### CLUB FIXTURES.

On Saturday, March 4th, at 8.15, the Members of the Temperance Hospital Nurses' League will give a dramatic entertainment at the Club, entitled "No Servants." After this there will be a short interval for refreshments, followed by songs, recitations and pianos. Members are cordially invited to come and bring their friends.

On Saturday, March 11th, at 3 p.m., Miss A. E. Macdonald will read a paper on "Mental Nursing along the lines of Suggestion and Constructive Thought." All nurses should make an effort to attend this, as they are sure to gain a great deal of useful and exceedingly interesting information. Miss Macdonald is a very able student of psychology, and will discuss her subject on the lines of the latest scientific knowledge and methods; she is a clever writer on nursing, and matters connected with the hygiene of the mind; mental nurses owe not a little to her for representing the views of the nurses themselves in a series of letters which have appeared recently, from medical men and others, in the columns of the *Daily Telegraph* in connection with the lack of recognition which mental nurses have received for the self-sacrificing work they undertake, a work which demands immense courage and patience.

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

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