

### ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 25th, at 8.15 p.m., Mr. Herbert Paterson, C.B.E., F.R.C.S., is to give an informal talk on "Things a Nurse Should Know." We have not heard precisely what subjects are to be discussed but they are to be such as to provide the nurse with a good deal of useful knowledge which does not come into the ordinary hospital curriculum. We expect quite an entertaining and profitable evening on the 25th.

### SICK MEN MURDERED IN HOSPITAL WARDS.

We do not care what their politics may be, but masked men who visit hospital wards and murder sick men in their beds should hang as high as Haman, and that soon.

Whilst the nurses were at supper, four masked men entered St. Bride's Home—a private hospital in Galway—riddled two sergeants with bullets, and wounded a constable in four places.

Three masked men also entered the workhouse hospital and shot dead a farmer who had been employed as an official of the Congested Districts Board.

No arrests were made.

### MISS JENTIE PATERSON AT THE ANTIPODES.

Miss Jentie Paterson is thoroughly enjoying her visit to the Antipodes, and is having a most delightful visit and instructive time; but was not too busy after reading her copy of the *B.J.N.* to cable the Minister of Health: "Register useless unless Certificates included. Is profession to be sacrificed for St. Thomas' Hospital. Paterson, Certificated Guys." It is such prompt action which carries conviction. Miss Paterson will by now have learned that the Minister has signed the Schedule making this right secure; at least for the moment—with Rules approved one day and squandered by collusion the next—there is at present under the G.N.C. no security whatever for nurses who register under its authority. The Kaiser was not in it with "scraps of paper" in competition with our irresponsible autocrats—here to-day and gone to-morrow!

But to return to Miss Paterson's interesting letter. She writes:—"I met Miss Gretta Lyons in Melbourne. She is a very strong supporter of Dr. Truby King, and on the Committee for Welfare Centres here on his lines in Melbourne. (He opened the first Truby King Centre at Coburg during his lecture tour in Australia in 1919, and the report a year later was that infant mortality was greatly reduced, quite the lowest of Melbourne districts, falling from 13'43 to 9'75).

Dr. King had written her of my arrival at Melbourne, so she sent down to the boat to meet me. We knew one another through the Journal, the doctor had arranged a Royal welcome for me in Australia, and many of her personal friends

were asked to meet me and show me round. And although in the middle of the summer Christmas holidays Dr. King travelled up from the South Island to meet me on the quay at Wellington; also Miss Patrick, the New Zealand Matron I trained under at Earl's Court.

"In N.Z. the Plunket Society (Dr. King founder and medical director) is stated to have reduced the death-rate from 80 to 40 per thousand. There is an obvious opening for a similar decrease in the infantile death-rate in Melbourne.

"The Royal Society for the Welfare of Motherhood in New South Wales has opened a hospital and training school in Sydney similar to Karitane hospitals in N.Z., after which the school in London is also fashioned. The M.O. in charge was sent over here, and the Matron, daughter of Sir William McMillan, Sydney, who served with the Australian Army Nurse Force during the war, trained in Dr. King's methods at Earl's Court prior to leaving England. She became temporary Matron at the original Karitane Hospital in Dunedin, and then assumed the Matronship of the newly-opened hospital in Sydney.

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"Just had an enjoyable and instructive trip over part of the W. and N.W. of South Island. I joined Miss Patrick, Director of the Plunket Nurses, on her visiting tour to the nurses. The word inspections could not be used, as the "calls" were for mutual help and information. We left Christchurch, took train to Otago, where we should have driven over the high pass, but owing to a big landslip we had to travel five miles through the half-finished railway tunnel in contractor's trucks! It was an experience. Magnificent scenery, towering snowclad mountains. The weather is not what I expected in N.Z. The people who keep saying Dr. Truby King's work is all very well in N.Z. with its climatic conditions should come out and sample it! At Westport we put up at the same hotel as Miss Maclean, Matron-in-Chief of N.Z. Nursing, and when Miss Patrick spoke to Westport mothers on the objects of the R.N.Z.S. for health of women and children, and the right and wrong ways to rear children, Miss Maclean was present, so also was Miss Dunsford, Matron of Westport Hospital, a charmingly-situated well-equipped place. The following day I said it was the nursing world on wheels, because I motored over the most gorgeous country and through the Buller gorge with Miss Patrick on one side and Miss Maclean on the other. Did ever a visiting nurse have such opportunities?"

Miss Paterson was to have returned home this spring, but we hear from Miss Gretta Lyons that Dr. Truby King's book, with which she is helping, is to be published in six months' time, and there is a contemplated tour of the Dominions, Australia and South Africa, and she will accompany Dr. King.

We are all for the "great adventure" for the young, and have quite come to the conclusion that what is wrong with our training schools is that they are controlled by untravelled minds.

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