

uplifting spiritual zeal which inspires our service, and may be sustained and comforted thereby."

Do not let us be afraid of setting our standard high, of taking pains to acquire both practical and theoretical knowledge, so that in our preventive and remedial work we offer only our best in the service of humanity. Superficial knowledge means shoddy work. The members of this fine Federation of Nurses aspire to perfect their work. A sure foundation having been laid, they must throughout the whole of their professional careers be seekers after fresh knowledge, and when we lay down our work we shall still be seeking to attain perfection.

#### Impressions of the Meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Copenhagen.

*My impressions are* of a lovely, homely, peaceful country with a contented people.

Of great hospitality and friendliness.

Of noble women, who are leaving the world the better for their unselfish lives.

Of the gratitude which is awakened by hearing your own language adopted as the medium for International interchange of thought.

Of the little bar that difference of race makes, where all are working for the same end, the good of humanity.

Of the certainty that the more opportunities we have of meetings such as these, the less danger there will be of there ever coming again such a world catastrophe, to separate us for so long an interval.

HELEN L. PEARSE.

"Wherever you are,  
Work for your soul's sake,  
That all the clay of you, all of the dross of you,  
May yield to the fire of you."

#### TRUE TALES AND A MORAL.

IN A MOTOR BUS.

Two country women complaining of poverty, passing through Trafalgar Square. At sight of National Gallery.

No. 1: "That's a fine Palace, I wonder who lives there?"

No. 2: "I don't know, I never see'd it afore!"

*Passenger to First Speaker*: "That Palace, Madam, in part belongs to you ladies, and it contains millions of pounds. It is a pity you do not know how rich you are."

No. 1: "You be one of those who likes your joke!"

*Passenger*: "Why certainly. I also like to count my mercies—palaces, parks, gardens, lakes, rivers, seas, music, masterpieces, the loveliest people in the world, and all for a mere song."

No. 2: "You can't live upon them things, why they charged us 4d. for a bath bun."

*Passenger* (pulling the cord): "I can't aspire to bath buns. I will away to a Palace of Delight—good-day!"

No. 1: Touch of the sun no doubt!"

## NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, MAY 23RD.

### NURSES AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

CAPTAIN WEDGWOOD BENN asked the Minister of Labour whether the provision for excluding nurses from the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act could be made retrospective, in view both of the difficulties of collecting arrears of contributions and of the fact that the insurance was of no practical value to nurses.

DR. MACNAMARA replied: I would refer my hon. and gallant friend to the report of the proceedings of Standing Committee B for Tuesday, April 4th, from which it will be seen that in accepting the amendment in committee that unemployment insurance contributions should cease to be payable in respect of nurses, I made it clear that in order to allow a reasonable interval before payment of benefit is stopped in the cases of the nurses, numbering several hundreds, who are unemployed, I could not agree to the new exception taking effect before July 1st. I added that I had no doubt that as the main request of the nurses had been met I should find general acceptance of my decision that contributions should be paid up to July 1st. In these circumstances I could not agree to make the exception retrospective which in any event would require legislation.

### BRADFORD ROYAL INFIRMARY NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Bradford Royal Infirmary Nurses' League held its sixth annual meeting on Saturday, May 27th, in the Recreation Room at the Royal Infirmary.

The Treasurer's report was a rather depressing one. It showed that the members' subscriptions only covered half the cost of the annual *League News*. Members, therefore, were asked to consider a financial crisis.

The Secretary was able to report the successful floating of a scheme for a Benevolent Fund in connection with the League, and a bank balance in hand for that fund of over £30.

The business on the agenda included an alteration in the Constitution of the League, by which the office of President, instead of (as formerly) being declared vacant every three years, should always be held by the Matron of the Royal Infirmary for the time being. The annual elections of resident and non-resident members of the Council then took place.

After the business meeting a general and social meeting was held, to which nurses from other local institutions and the public health services had been invited. Unfortunately, two other functions for nurses had been arranged in the neighbourhood for that same date, so there was not the usual attendance, but about twenty-five visitors accepted the invitation of the League.

Miss Davies, Matron of the Royal Infirmary and President of the League, gave an address on

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