

the sick and wounded from the battles of Copenhagen, St. Vincent, the Nile, Trafalgar, the Crimea, the Baltic. Through that gateway passed every surgeon on entering the Naval Medical Service, and future generations in passing would pay tribute to the service of those medical officers and Nursing Sisters who gave their all to their King and Country, and who would remain for ever an example in patriotism.

The Director-General then released the flag, and the tablet was unveiled, and the impressive function closed with the blessing of the Chaplain, and the National Anthem.

A laurel wreath from the Sick Berth Staff was laid at the foot of the Memorial.

THE AMERICAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The American Nurses' Association has elected Miss Adda Eldredge as its President, in succession to Miss Clara D. Noyes, the retiring President. Miss Eldredge has been for years a Member of the Board of Directors, and has also acted as Interstate Secretary.

The Convention of the National League of Nursing Education in Seattle, U.S.A., appears from the Report published in the *American Journal of Nursing*, to have been an unqualified success. The outstanding event of the week was, we learn, the presentation of the long awaited Rockefeller Report on Nursing Education, presented by Miss Goodrich, who read rapidly for more than an hour, and so conveyed the abstract of Miss Goldmark's report, as condensed by Dr. Winslow.

THE "ROSS" LAWN TENNIS CHALLENGE CUP.

The Matrons of the Metropolitan Asylums Board are issuing invitations to witness the Final of the "Ross" Lawn Tennis Challenge Cup at the Park Hospital, Hither Green, on Saturday, September 9th, at 2.30 p.m. We hope the Clerk of the Weather will smile upon the gathering. That is all that is needed to make it a most enjoyable function.

COLLEGE OF NURSING.

BIRMINGHAM AND THREE COUNTIES CENTRE.

On Thursday, August 17th, Miss Bodley, Matron of Selly Oak Hospital, was "At Home" to members of the centre. In spite of the uncertain weather several excellent sets of tennis were played, whilst less energetic guests enjoyed a game of bowls. Tea was served in the nurses' sitting-room, simply but effectively decorated in blue and cream. Music and a guessing competition brought to a close a delightful social gathering.

G. M. E. JONES,
Hon. Press Sec.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Of the five countries received into the International Council of Nurses at Copenhagen—Belgium, China, Italy, Norway, and South Africa—the first to present a Report was Belgium, this being read by Mlle. la Comtesse Louise d'Ursel. The Report was as follows:—

NURSING IN BELGIUM.

It is in grateful acknowledgment of the invitation of the Danish nurses that we come to show to the *élite* of nursing of all countries the result of the efforts that have been made to raise the standard of our profession in Belgium.

The war, coming just at the moment when nursing, as a profession, began to rise in our country, abruptly stopped all tentatives of bringing nurses together. They were dispersed, to concentrate all their efforts, during four years, on one single aim—that of relieving the frightful sufferings which surrounded them—without thinking of forwarding their own interests.

Directly conditions, after the armistice, allowed them to come together, they founded an Association which has grown and spreads now throughout the whole country. To show you what we have done during these three years, we would like to put before you the stages through which nursing has passed, to reach the present state.

Before the War.

The history of nursing in Belgium goes back to very far, and is closely associated with the charitable foundations of the Middle Ages.

In times of general trouble the civil power is not able to give protection to the people. At that moment the Church takes up the work, and the bishop, inside the walls of the city, gathers all the sufferers round him.

The tendency to relieve suffering, hindered by invasions, rises steadily from the eleventh century. The "Maisons Dieu" gather in all human miseries—soldiers and citizens, religious and laic, Jews and Mahometans are admitted without difficulty, for they all bear the same mark of suffering.

The care is given by "brothers" and "sisters" living in separate communities, who not only welcome the invalids when they come, but seek them in the streets.

The patient is looked on as the master of the house, and the religious are his servants. Most of our modern hospitals have their origin in these "Maisons Dieu," and are still served by the same religious orders as in the twelfth century.

Then comes the feudal system: The lords try to improve the position of their vassals, they create charitable institutions and endow those which exist already.

Thus it is that many hospitals served by Augustinian sisters have been endowed by Sophie,

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