

The Lord Mayor (Alderman Sir David Davis), who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, presided.

In declaring the Club open, Mrs. Cadbury hoped the Club's purpose might be fulfilled, and that it might be a place of rest and refreshment for those who so nobly gave their lives for the service of others.

Mrs. Cadbury and Mrs. Richards were appointed vice-presidents and honorary life members, and a book containing a copy of the resolution and a cut-glass vase were handed respectively to Mrs. Cadbury and Mrs. Richards as mementoes of the occasion.

Mr. W. A. Cadbury, in proposing thanks to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, said that tribute to nurses was as widespread and unanimous throughout Birmingham and the district as any such testimonial had ever been. He hoped the nurses would realise they had the deep and heartfelt thanks of the public—not only for their services in the war, but also for their untiring efforts for suffering humanity during the perhaps less romantic days of peace.

We presume from this speech that nurses are not to be compelled to join the College of Nursing, Ltd., before they may enjoy the benefits of the Club largely financed by the public. We hope that Mrs. Cadbury will use her influence to prevent coercion in this connection.

The Cardiff Nurses' Club, which is being established at 23, Cathedral Road, Cardiff, in connection with the local centre of the College of Nursing, Ltd., will be opened shortly by the Marchioness of Bute, who is the president.

The Countess of Plymouth is vice-president, and Lady Thomas (who was a nurse who married a millionaire) is chairman.

The local nurses, through their garden fête in 1922, raised £1,000, which enabled the Committee to purchase the premises at the above address. It is hoped that once the initial cost has been met the Club will be self-supporting. The total amount needed to cover the cost of purchasing and equipping the property is £1,800.

We do not pretend to approve of the patronage of rich and titled persons for professional nurses' institutions, especially when they aim at being self-supporting.

The College has done the profession very ill-service by encouraging servility and graft amongst nurses, instead of the past-time sturdy independence of spirit.

Are our big hospitals about to be faced with a serious dearth of probationers? We are informed on reliable authority that the number of probationers coming forward is now much below the average, and that all the wire-pulling by Poor Law Guardians at the Ministry of Health to deprive future nurses of a "prescribed" standard of training, and so weakly submitted to by the G.N.C., results from a fear that the poorly educated girl now being admitted to some infirmaries will not be able to assimilate the teaching necessary for passing a State Examination, unless it is of a very perfunctory nature. Well-educated, refined girls were never more necessary in hospitals than they are to-day; yet we fear the blundering incapacity of our "Governing Body" has discouraged many such from adopting nursing as their profession.

There appeared in the *Lancet* a most interesting letter on "The Tooth-brush as a Carrier of Virulent Diphtheria Bacilli" on August 4th last, by Dr. G. H. Culverwell, D.P.H., Dublin, and Dr. J. Graham Forbes, D.P.H., in which they write:—

"The fact that the tooth-brush is but one of many likely vehicles of infection from a diphtheria carrier opens up a wide field for survey—particularly in residential schools—in dealing with an outbreak of diphtheria.

"Among the articles to be considered are pencils and penholders, spoons and forks, common drinking cups at playground fountains, school call whistles, the mouthpieces of bugles or band instruments, and—amongst boys—the cigarette not uncommonly passed from mouth to mouth. Surgeon-Commander S. F. Dudley, in drawing attention to the penholder as a possible source of spread of diphtheria infection, states: "Nearly all children bite the ends of their pens, and, as this is so, a penholder must be looked on as an even more personal article than a tooth-brush. The latter is in the mouth for shorter periods than the pen, and in addition is generally soaked with a solution of some antiseptic dentrifice."

"The case here recorded, however, shows that the risk of infection attaching to the tooth-brush, despite implied antiseptic protection, may be no less than that of the penholder."

Her Excellency the Countess of Reading has issued an appeal on behalf of the Lady Minto Indian Nursing Association, of which she is the President. The report of the Association's work during 1922 is also issued.

Miss Florence A. Hodgson, Chief Lady Superintendent of the Association, in the course of her report, observes the work, as a result

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