

The necessity for forming opinions leads to the development of individuality and an enormous harvest of new knowledge in some instances. Also it fosters the habit of examining facts, of recognising truth, and of weighing one's words before one speaks. If the last only were the one advantage to be gained it would be worth while for nurses to get used to public speaking; like most people they feel the necessity for expressing themselves, but perhaps there is no class of women who do so with less thought. It is one of the missions of present day evolution to develop independent thought, but far too frequently do we find that nurses make statements without feeling any personal responsibility as to their accuracy. When, however, they are faced with the responsibility for teaching others they are likely to get rid of the primitive habit of relying only on impressions from without, and instead they call their minds into activity and thereby set in motion a mental machinery which, with personal determination, is capable of leading them far. But just here we come to another difficulty which a nurse raised when once we asked her to undertake a post which involved lecturing at certain times, "I have no ideas." Well, get them. Most people have been given a brain; if they are content that it remains empty that is their own fault. It is only mental laziness which is responsible for any such handicap. In any case we would recommend nurses with enterprise to look around them and to note the very many openings which do arise in the way of lectureships on nursing and allied subjects. The various County Councils are nearly all arranging for such teaching to be given. The Women's Rural Institutes frequently have lectures of the same kind. The British Red Cross Society and several societies interested in social welfare have special schemes which call for courses of lectures which nurses could give, and yet there has been no sort of effort on the part of the nurses to take advantage of this and develop a new and, what might be, an exceedingly important branch of their profession. In this, as in many other directions, we see the working of what is actually the greatest curse of the profession—the absolute lack of vision which characterises so many of its members. "Where there is no vision the people perish," and the profession, as such, does not exist in many of the finest and most progressive branches of women's work for which, owing to their professional knowledge, their wide experience of human nature and of social work, the nurses are peculiarly fitted. So that when we see the lectureships on nursing, health and similar subjects being captured by others we realise how terrible are the results of lack of vision, and lack of mental initiative, which keep our profession so largely devoid of self determination and independence and make its units very largely the "hewers of wood and drawers of water" for others, who capture the fine professional opportunities that call forth latent faculties of mind and create immense possibilities not only from a materialistic point of view but from the point of view of pro-

fessional status and achievement, and of individual advancement and happiness.

THE SIX POINT GROUP.

The Association has been asked to appoint a representative to the platform for the meeting of the Six Point Group to deal with the subject of child assault at the Kingsway Hall, on Wednesday, November 14th, at 8 p.m. The Executive Committee decided to accept the invitation and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who has done much splendid pioneer work in arousing the public conscience to a great evil, has been asked, and consented, to represent the Association. We hope our members will do all they can to make the meeting known.

THE RAMBLERS' CLUB.

The Ramblers' Club will visit the National Gallery on Thursday, November 1st, and those intending to join the expedition should meet at the entrance at 2 p.m. We expect to have a wonderful afternoon among the marvellous works of art which have been handed down from the early Florentine, German, Flemish, Venetian and other Schools of ages that have passed and which still have their messages for the present generation. Old pictures have qualities and powers which do not exist in modern works of art. So many of the artists of old were mystics possessed of certain clairvoyant faculties now lost to humanity, and, through their pictures rather than through language, they sought to convey and interpret spiritual teachings to mankind and to arouse feelings which would lead them to understand the lessons which the ancient sages and philosophers gave out.

But we shall visit, too, many pictures of another kind and get into touch with more modern artists. We shall get closer to many of our own great painters and feel that we can contact across the span of many years such men as Romney, Reynolds, Gainsborough, Constable, and other great masters of British art.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF NURSING AND CHILD WELFARE.

Mrs. James Glover, M.R.B.N.A., has been appointed to represent the Royal British Nurses' Association on the Committee of the International School of Nursing and Child Welfare for Russia.

GIFTS TO THE CLUB.

Miss Cattell, embroidered tea cloth; Miss Clarke, Miss Enroth, Miss Morgan, Sister A. E. Macdonald and Miss Swaby Smith, flowers; Miss Denham and Miss Whyte cake for Sunday tea.

DONATIONS.

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

Club Fund.—Miss M. Ker, 15s.; Miss Rossiter, 3s. 6d.

Settlement Fund.—Miss M. Fraser, £1 6s. 6d.; Miss H. A. Coombes, £1; Miss C. A. Richards, £1; Miss F. M. Archer, 2s. 6d.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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