

and nursing. I have promised to undertake a brief translation and am including such people as William Harvey, James Simpson, Robert Koch, Pasteur, Lister, and others, and Florence Nightingale. As there are more American nurses than English out here I have asked one of them to get me some material of pioneer nurses in America. I cast about in my own mind wondering who were outstanding nurses of the early days in Britain and am ashamed to say I had only a vague notion about any of our early nurses. Then, happily, an American nurse lent me her four volumes of "A History of Nursing" (Dock and Nutting) and since beginning on it I have literally been unable to tear myself away from it, particularly the volume that gives the record of the British Nurses' Association. Why! what stirring times the Association has struggled through to be sure, and how deep and great is the debt of all British nurses to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, aye, and the patients, too! I was so stirred at the record and felt thoroughly ashamed that I had not known it all before. I deeply love our profession and count it my great privilege and joy in life to be able to train these fine student nurses, and pass on our ideals to them. Thanks to our strong American element out here we get nursing ethics and nursing history emphasised in the standard curriculum of our Association. But the question rises to my mind. Why? Why? Why? were not we British nurses in our days of training (I trained from 1910-1912) taught some nursing history. Nursing ethics we imbibed from our very first day. It was well drilled into us by matron and sisters, but nursing history was never mentioned—or any nursing organization, though I have a vague memory of Matron mentioning the Pension Fund for nurses!

I feel a grievance that we were kept in ignorance of these things. Surely the inspiring history of the brave and noble nurses who blazed the trail for us should have been given to us and could only have been a help and a stimulus. I had constantly seen the name of Mrs. Fenwick and Miss Breay (they were vilified weekly in the quack nursing Press for thirty years for standing firmly for professional self-determination and legal status.—Ed.), but I never knew until I read this "History" recently, who they were and what they did in the early days. I knew more of Mrs. Robb, Miss Lilian Wald, Miss Nutting, &c., through my association with American nurses who cherish their leaders in the nursing world! I feel this is a rather dreadful confession to make, but it is the plain truth, and I hope with all my heart that nurses of the future in England will be taught the history of their profession. There are great days before those coming nurses due to the efforts of your whole life. Future generations of nurses will not be slow to render their tribute of homage and gratitude for all you have made possible."

[We have quoted the above from an extremely interesting letter; because the attitude of many of those associated with the training of nurses in this country, in so far as the history of the evolution of nursing all along the line has been greatly to be deplored and has long called for censure, as it has placed thousands of British nurses in a thoroughly false position when working in community with their American colleagues, which they now have to do throughout the near and far East. A profession without traditions is a "sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal," and to keep pupils for upwards of a quarter-of-a-century in abysmal ignorance of the monumental struggle for professional freedom, cannot be defended. The boycott by our daily press, the commercial depravity of the quack nursing press, and the ignorance and self-interested silence of "teachers" of nurses has produced generations of women with warped minds and blurred vision. The sooner they "thirst after knowledge" for themselves, and study the four volumes of "Nursing History" (Nutting and Dock) the sooner we shall regain something of the prestige in the nursing world we have lost,

in comparison with the free, intelligent and well-organised nurses of other lands, who, as our correspondent writes, "cherish their leaders." What do our British Nurses trained in recent years know about the lives and work of their compatriots? Agnes Jones at Liverpool, Sister Dora at Walsall, Sister Helen in the United States, Sister Henrietta of Kimberley in South Africa, Agnes Sniveley in Canada, Mrs. Grace Neill in New Zealand, Mrs. Strong in Scotland, Miss M. Huxley in Dublin, Isla Stewart in England, Catherine Loch in India, and of our Canadian Sisters, Isabel Hampton Robb and Adelaide M. Nutting, in the United States. We do not believe that the majority of our younger generations of nurses even know their names, much less their fine creative and constructive work in the evolution and upbuilding of the Nursing Profession. We agree with our correspondent—such ignorance shows such lack of generous appreciation upon the part of their teachers. Anyway, do not forget it. Professional organisation began in Britain (the British Nurses' Association, 1887), State Registration of Nurses was started in Britain 1887, the International Council of Nurses was promoted and founded in Britain 1899, and the nurses of the whole world have followed after and benefited by our pioneer movements for organisation.—Ed.]

THE QUEEN'S DOLLS' HOUSE.

Susan Hamilton, Ottawa.—"This new B.J.N. *great*. I am coming to London to see the Queen's Doll's House. I love toys at 50. Of course, I shan't miss Westminster Abbey and the Tower!"

[Neither must our correspondent miss Titania's Palace, which will be at Manchester at the end of April helping the League of Pity.—Ed.]

GLAD TO MEET YOU!

Members of National Councils of Nurses affiliated to the International Council of Nurses, visiting this country for the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, are invited to call at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. (opposite Selfridge's), the Headquarters of the National and International Councils of Nurses, the officials of which will be pleased to get into touch with them and to give them any information in their power.

A WORD TO SCOTTISH AND IRISH TRAINED NURSES.

We understand that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, in dealing with applicants for reciprocal registration from Scotland (and presumably therefore from Ireland also) propose merely to make an entry in the qualification column of the Register "Registered in Scotland." This is not in conformity with the English Rules, which require the insertion of the date and place of Registration, and the qualification for admission to the Register (including certificate of training, if any), the dates of obtaining such qualification, and the hospital or hospitals in which such qualifying training has been received.

Intermediate Scottish and Irish nurses should claim the right to have these qualifications recorded in the English Register, otherwise no one will know whether they are certificated or not. The form of the Scottish Register is, in our opinion, totally inadequate.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION FOR JUNE.

How would you clean:—

- A head infested with Pediculi (lice)?
- A mouth caked with Sordes?
- A patient's skin for the application of a Blister?

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