

an importation from America brought back by the emigrants.

Mothers turned their sons out of the house, husbands deserted their wives, the wealthiest homes woke up in the morning to find their whole staff of servants vanished. In one word, tuberculosis, leprosy and the old Mosaic laws became one and the same thing.

While the Syrian Committee discussed and talked, Dr. Mary Eddy made a valiant plunge, and started with a few patients on one of the heights of Mount Lebanon. My father died at the end of the year, and I left the country and the Syrian Committee to their destiny.

Dr. Mary Eddy has now gone to her rest, but the work is still being carried out by her sister, Mrs. Hoskins, who is acting as directress, with the help of an American nursing matron, a Syrian doctor, and Syrian nurses.

Mrs. Hoskins is one of the personalities of the huge American Syrian Mission. She is a congenial missionary, and also by vocation and marriage. She speaks Arabic like a Syrian, and understands their mentality better than they understand themselves. Though her parents were of the most rigid puritanical type of early missionaries, she herself is the most broad, generous-minded and large-hearted worker in the American Mission.

In the early days of missionary work in Syria, when all Protestants worked in harmony—Americans, British and Germans—when the Oxford Movement was anathema, things were different. There was one cemetery, one baptism and one Holy Communion.

Later on, missions and missionaries assumed political proportions and propaganda in the eyes of the Turks, who fully realised that some day their empire would be torn to pieces and divided among the European Christian Powers. Thus, though they feared France, Russia and Britain, and outwardly showed friendly negotiations, the Sultans put every spoke in the wheels. America alone was allowed full sway, with a generous "bacshish," for they knew she had no political motives in her support of missionaries, and so long as the American missionaries were not attempting to proselytise the Mohammedans, their conversion of the Greek, Greek Catholic and other Christians was the business of the Christians amongst themselves.

Thus the American Mission grew and flourished. Schools turned into colleges, colleges into a University—the Beyrout College is now a University. Their rivals were the French Missions and Jesuits, subsidised and protected by France, whose success was due to the support of the Syrian and Mount Lebanon clergy.

Syria and Mount Lebanon now belong to France. This is due to the Sykes-Picot Treaty of May, 1916, when France feared that the whole of the East would fall into the hands of the British. Unfortunately this treaty having been made, had to be held; though, at the termination of the war, a very complex situation arose, and much opposition on the part of the Syrians themselves, and from the King of the Arabs, who, on joining the British against the Germans and Turks, had received the promise that he and his sons would be given the Arabic-speaking countries; then, again, the Americans being the only neutrals, and not at war with Turkey, remained alone in the field, doing noble work amongst the starving Syrians through the American Red Cross. Syria begged for an American mandate through an overwhelming plebiscite. This difficulty was at once settled by America refusing the mandate.

Thus France reigns in Syria and Mount Lebanon, and, having no fear of American political propaganda, the American missionaries and University increase and flourish, and their good work lives on, pure and free from all desires of earthly power; and long live such women, and such single-minded spirits as Mrs. Hoskins and many other noble men and women giving up their lives in missionary work.

EDLA WORTABET.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The Fiftieth Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the Ministry of Health on Friday, September 19th, Sir Wilmot F. Herringham, K.C.M.G., C.B., Chairman of the Council, presiding.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and signed as correct, Miss Cox Davies asked the Chairman whether his attention had been drawn to a letter in the *Nursing Mirror*, stating that an applicant had been waiting fourteen months for registration.

THE CHAIRMAN replied that he had seen the letter, that it was very difficult to deal with anonymous statements. The last time an almost similar statement was made it had been made by an authoritative body (the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council), but when applied to for further information, it could only quote one case, and that case was wrong.

The applications of 291 existing nurses who claimed registration were still held over, 278 because they had not replied to letters, and 13 others, which were awaiting the return of their reference papers. He need not go into the applications of Intermediate Nurses. Under the Rules Modification Order 253 applications were still held over pending further information, 57 had not returned the forms issued, and 208 applications were awaiting return of references.

MISS COX-DAVIES: Thank you, Sir.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

Report of the Finance Committee.

MR. R. DONALDSON, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the Report be received.

On its recommendation Bills and Claims submitted for payment were approved, and the following sums allowed:—Stamps £25, Insurance Stamps £20, Petty Cash £10, Stamps for Examination Department, £50.

Also the sum of £400 (being the first instalment for work done at 20, Portland Place, in accordance with the architect's certificate) for the builders, Messrs. Colley & Sons, Ltd.

Various estimates of Messrs. A. & E. Walter, Ltd., for printing, were approved, and the Report as a whole agreed.

Report of the Registration Committee.

MISS DU SAUROY, in the absence of the Chairman of the Registration Committee, moved that the Report be received.

On its recommendation the names of 162 nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their Retention Fee for the year 1924 and now wished their names re-included in the Register, were authorised by the Council to be re-included; the removal of the names of 22 nurses from the Register who wished their names withdrawn, was also authorised.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

The Committee reported that the following statements have been forwarded to the Minister of Health:—

Applications received:—

During the week ending	July 19th	45			
"	"	"	"	26th	49
"	"	"	"	Aug. 2nd	47
"	"	"	"	"	9th	..	60
"	"	"	"	"	16th	..	39
"	"	"	"	"	23rd	..	37
"	"	"	"	"	30th	..	44
"	"	"	"	Sept. 6th	90

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