

## NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On March 12th, Dr. Chapple, who is agitating to have the General Part of the Nurses' Register available for totally untrained women for two years from the time his fatal amendment, at the instigation of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., was passed in the House of Commons on June 13th, 1923, asked the Minister of Health the following question:—

### NURSES (REGISTRATION).

DR. CHAPPLE asked the Minister of Health whether he has yet had an opportunity of consulting the Law Officers of the Crown upon the question of the rejection by the Nursing Council of applicants for admission to the Nursing Register under the rule passed on July 7th, 1923?

MR. WHEATLEY: No, Sir, but I will do so in the near future.

So far the Law Officers of the Crown have not advised the Minister of Health on this point.

## THE NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF CHINA.

### REPORT OF CONFERENCE AT CANTON.

The Biennial Conference of the Nurses' Association of China was held in the old historical city of Canton during the Chinese New Year festival, February, 1924. The Association has grown tremendously the past few years, and this Conference was the largest and most representative ever yet held. About eighty-five nurses, most of whom are working in Mission hospitals and training native nurses, came from all parts of China. From Shansi and Peking in the North and from Formosa in the South. From Japan came two delegates, one being the Superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital, Tokyo, which was thrown to the ground in the earthquake last year. No patients were injured, fortunately, and the work is now being carried on in an improvised hospital.

Nearly eighty Chinese nurses were present at the Conference, and also twelve visitors. The delegates from North and Central China travelled from Shanghai together by steamer.

Arrived at Canton, we were welcomed in the fine large Assembly Hall of the Kong Yee Medical College and Hospital, where hung a portrait of Florence Nightingale, given to us by St. Thomas' Hospital, London. The wife of the Governor of the province, the President of the Medical College, and others welcomed us with warm words of greeting.

In the evening the nurses met together for prayers, using a beautiful litany for nurses especially drawn up for us by a London Hospital nurse of our number.

The days that followed were full of happy and helpful fellowship, and the discussions in the meetings were followed with keen interest. For the first time we had Chinese nurses with us who took part, giving papers and acting on committees. They favourably impressed us all and gave great promise for the future when our loved Association will be given over to them.

As the N.A.C. is affiliated to the International Council of Nurses, four delegates were appointed to attend the Conference of the I.C.N. to be held in Finland next year.

Miss Lilian Wu, the capable Matron of the Red Cross Hospital in Shanghai, was appointed to be the Chinese delegate, and the Chinese nurses throughout the country are planning ways and means of raising the fund necessary for the journey to Finland. Three other nurses were appointed as representatives; one is the chairman of our Education Committee and will be on furlough at that time and able to attend the Conference.

May 12th, Florence Nightingale's birthday, is to be observed as national hospital day throughout our schools in China. One very interesting session of the Conference was devoted to a discussion on post-graduate courses for our Chinese nurses. Courses in executive work, pharmacy, anaesthetics, laboratory technicians, X-ray, dentistry, &c., are to be made available. One of the men nurses gave a fine paper on "How can the Schools of Nursing best develop Christian character and ideals of service in the student nurses?" The papers and discussions were given in both the Chinese and English language.

Two years ago one of the Missions kindly consented to allocate one of their nurses to be our first full-time Secretary and do the much-needed visiting of the Schools of Nursing. This Secretary has done magnificent work, travelling over 25,000 miles of country, away in West China towards Tibet, down in the mountainous regions of the South, and away off the beaten track in the North, visiting the scattered up-country hospitals, bringing inspiration, encouragement and information to the missionary nurse in charge and to the groups of Chinese nurses and probationers. Travelling away beyond the confines of civilisation, in all kinds of conveyances from steamer, native junk and bamboo raft, to pack ponies, sedan chairs, and wheelbarrows. In perils of robbers by land and water, God kept her safe and well through it all and crowned her work with great success. From 132 members we have increased to 700, and from 30 training schools to more than eighty. To our regret the Secretary's allotted two years are up and her furlough is due.

The Conference elected a new Secretary in the person of Miss Hope Bell, of the London Hospital, who has worked as Matron of the L.M.S. Hospital in Hankow for some years.

The Conference felt we had arrived at the stage when a headquarters for our work in Shanghai is indispensable and decided to go forward and appeal for funds for such a building. Miss Wu, of the Red Cross Hospital, Shanghai, is the Treasurer for Chinese subscriptions and Mrs. Maxwell, at 700, Dixwell Road, Shanghai, is Treasurer for other subscriptions. The Conference delegates were invited to see the other hospitals in Canton. The Canton Hospital is the oldest missionary hospital in the Far East. Much interest was shown in the splendid work for the mentally afflicted in China. We all returned to our stations greatly enheartened by all we had seen and heard, a full report of which is to be published soon. Truly God has been with us and to Him we would render praise. Our motto for the future is "With God nothing shall be impossible."

GLADYS STEPHENSON, S.R.N.,  
President Nurses' Association of China.

### LEGACIES FOR NURSES.

Mr. John Duncan McGruer, of Christchurch, New Zealand, and a native of Kingussie, N.B., bequeathed a life annuity of £100 to Lily Bentley, Matron of St. Pancras South Infirmary, London, in recognition of her many acts of kindness and devotion to members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces during the Great War, and in many other respects.

The Rev. Francis Kercheval Hilton, M.A., The Vicarage, Stourton Chandle, Dorset, left £1,000 to Rosalie Blanche Gertrude Starr, Certified Nurse, "for the care and attention shown to me."

Mr. Edward Martyn, of Tulira Castle, Ardahan, Co. Galway, left £1,000 to his nurse, Laurence Burke, for the purpose of enabling him to continue and complete his medical studies and to qualify as a physician and surgeon.

Mr. George Herbert Hodgson, of Cannes, left 100,000 francs, free of duty, to his nurse and housekeeper, Mme. Marie Lamaniere (Louise), in recognition of her services in having nursed him through several serious illnesses.

Colonel William Henry Campion, C.B., of Hove, left an annuity of £25 to Jane Carter, his nurse.

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