

## THE SMALL COLLECTORS' SOCIETY.

On Friday, March 13th, the foundations were laid of a society of small collectors which has potentialities of much pleasure to many people, and especially to members of the nursing profession who may not have a large amount of money, and who yet have a love of beautiful old things, the acquisition of which need not necessarily be costly and the quest of which is a most fascinating pursuit. The meeting was held at 431, Oxford Street, W., and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick informally presided.

Mrs. Willoughby Hodgson, the author of "The Quest of the Antique" and many other works on Porcelain, was present and quite a number of nurses attended and showed great interest in the proceedings.

The name of "The Small Collectors' Society" was approved, and the objects suggested were to acquire knowledge of antiques, and the possession of some if possible.

It was proposed by Miss Stewart Bryson, S.R.N., and seconded by Miss Helen L. Pearse, S.R.N., and carried unanimously, that a "Small Collectors Society" be formed.

Mrs. Fenwick pointed out the different specimens of blue and white pottery in the room, including a *Garniture de Cheminée* (Liverpool), a soup tureen (Shorthose), some large dishes (Swansea), and "Rogers" plates.

The benign influence of antiques on those who love them, was amusingly illustrated by Mrs. Willoughby Hodgson, who told a tale of a son who said to his mother: "Mother, you are looking rather miserable, why not nurse your pepper pot?" and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that during the "thirty years' war" for State Registration of Nurses if she was feeling perturbed, to stand in front of a cabinet in her drawing-room containing the three Rosebery "loving cups" illustrated in the "Quest of the Antique," quickly renewed her serenity.

It was suggested that lectures, visits to private collections and to museums, &c., might be included in the activities of the Society, and especially the acquisition of marked pieces of china to study, and a reference library on antiques.

Mrs. Fenwick pointed out that marks could be learnt from books, but not the "paste"

Mrs. Willoughby Hodgson said that the duty payable on goods going into the United States of America had now been taken off everything over 100 years' old, and American dealers were coming over to this country in large numbers, and securing many beautiful antiques.

Mrs. Fenwick announced that Mrs. Willoughby Hodgson had consented to give a "Talk" at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., on a Saturday in May, on the subject of Antiques, and it would seem to be an ideal occasion at which to inaugurate the Society. This was agreed, and Mrs. Willoughby Hodgson suggested that if everyone brought a small marked piece of china it would add to the interest of the occasion.

Mrs. MacAllister and Mrs. Willoughby Hodgson both most kindly invited members to view their antiques on occasions to be arranged.

## TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

MID TERM *Thé Dansant*.

Eton Boy, indignantly, to chum: "That's my grandmother grabbing that guy with the waved hair."

Chum, enthusiastically: "I call her real swish."

## COMING EVENTS.

April 2nd.—Central Midwives' Board. Monthly Meeting. 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, S.W. 1.

April 4th.—H.R.H. Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, opens new Headquarters of General Nursing Council for England and Wales. 20, Portland Place, W. 3 p.m.

April 24th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting. 20, Portland Place, W. 1.

May 2nd.—A Talk on Old English Pottery and Porcelain. By Mrs. Willoughby Hodgson, R.B.N.A. Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 7.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

## THE REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am very interested in the fact that a Bill for the Registration of Nursing Homes is before Parliament—it is long overdue. But what I am even more interested in is the hope that it will emerge much stronger than it is at present. It gives one the impression of trying to please everyone, and so is emasculated. For instance: What about provision being made that a Home *may* be refused registration (why not *must*?) unless the person in charge of the nursing is a State Registered Nurse? Many are at present, but that does not prevent them from employing "all and sundry" to work under them as nurses, and abuses flourish.

I hope the day will come when a Registered Nurse will not be permitted to employ an unregistered one as her substitute.

There are other points in the Bill which merit criticism, but the above is one of the most serious.

Yours faithfully,

S.R.N.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## CRUSHING OUT OUR SPIRIT.

*A Registered Nurse writes:—*"I read with deep interest the Reports of the G.N.C. Meetings and your 'Points.' What strikes me is the utter lack of 'soul' in that autocratic Corporation—and the irreparable harm done to our profession by the evident crushing out of a professional spirit. There is actually an Equality of Sexes Act in force in this country—and yet although Parliament has recognised Nursing as a profession we find our Governing Body entirely dominated by a medical man, who I regret to note has been again elected for another term of office by the Matrons' vote on the Council—and without any word of protest by the women we voted to represent us on our Council. On enquiry I am informed that 'there isn't a woman on the Council able to preside in the Chair of a statutory body'—Then if not, why not? We have Registered Nurses outside that College packed Council quite capable of performing this professional duty—and if none of the nurse members of the Council—many of whom have been in office for five years—have taken the trouble to qualify themselves for the post—it is time they retired and made way for women with a keener professional sense of responsibility, and who are free from the 'anti' temperament. The vanity and love of power of men who seize every bit of prestige in our Profession, which we worked to make—is really most ungenerous, as this constant depreciation damps our rightful aspirations—and does us no end of harm in public estimation. 'The poor nurses' has become a hackneyed phrase on the public tongue—and poor things the majority appear to be."

## AS "LETTERS FROM HOME."

*Mrs. Sutton-Phelan, Brooklyn, New York:—*"I enclose subscription. I *must* have the JOURNAL, it is as 'letters from home,' and without it there would be a great loneliness, as well as an educational loss in nursing."

## PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR MAY.

What are the effects on the human body of (a) sunshine, (b) a hot bath, (c) constipation, and (d) mouth breathing?

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