

that she should show him what she carried, and, at the same time, pulled aside her cloak. This disclosed her arms laden with the most lovely red and white roses, and the miracle was all the more wonderful that it took place when the snow lay thick on the ground. It is recorded that, at the time of her burial, countless numbers of birds of a species unknown, sang on the roof of the church although it was winter. A great saint of that time said that "He who spoke through the mouth of an ass to repress the folly of a prophet might well speak through the mouths of the birds to proclaim the innocence of a saint." Elizabeth founded several hospitals in the country, over which her husband ruled, and to commemorate the incident of the leper, he built one close to his Castle.

That the early Kings and Queens of England were not indifferent to the needs of the poor and the sick in their realms is to be gathered from the fact that many of their daughters were dedicated to the Church while the Queens often retired in their widowhood into convents and devoted themselves to good works "for the health of their husbands' souls." Queens and the wives of the nobles made themselves responsible, too, for the care of their lords' retainers and slaves in sickness, and they were accomplished herbalists as a rule. Matilda, wife of King Stephen, founded a hospital "without the Tower of London" on the death of two of her children, as her Charter quaintly explains, "in pure and perpetual alms for the repose of their souls." This hospital she dedicated to St. Katherine and placed under the protection of a Priory. The power, thus granted, was ultimately abused by the Priors, and Eleanor, the widowed Queen of Henry the Third, after a long controversy with the Pope, refounded the hospital. In the quaint language of her time Eleanor's Charter tells how she grants the Charter "in our liege widowhood for us and for our heirs for ever, for the health of the soul of Lord Henry of famous memory and for the health of our soul and for the health of the souls of kings and queens preceding and succeeding us"—a far-reaching Charter this is in truth.

Eighty years after the great Queen Philippa of Hainault, wife of Edward the Third, granted to the hospital a Charter providing for its work to be extended by the nursing of the sick poor in its neighbourhood, by gentlewomen. It is to be remembered that hospitals in mediæval times were just as much hostels as hospitals, in the present day significance of the latter word; they afforded shelter to the destitute as well as to the sick. Indeed, most of the hospitals, taken in our present sense of the word, were, at that time, mere leper houses. But many of the Queens founded the religious houses in which was undertaken, though not directly specified, the care of the sick. There is little to emphasise the development of nursing in these early times, partly, perhaps, because the districts were more sparsely populated, the evils of overcrowding had not risen, medicine and surgery were of a primitive character and people died more often from acts of violence than from actual disease.

It is curious to come across the treatment of a case of smallpox in the castle of Edward the First. We are told that the Queen, on the direction of her court physician, had the room hung with red, and to the effect of this the successful recovery of the patient is entirely credited. Did these old time doctors have an inkling of a theory propounded in later days by Goethe in his "Theory of Colour?"

The Reformation may be said to mark the commencement of the dark ages in English nursing. Then the care of the sick was, to some extent, made the responsibility of the cities, but it was sadly neglected until Florence Nightingale gave nursing her great impulse at the time of the Crimean War. At first there was the tendency to go back more or less to the old conventual methods, but it was difficult

to bring these into harmony with modern conditions. Efforts commenced later, on the inspiration of another great leader, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, to get nursing established as a profession. These efforts were crowned with success when the Royal Assent was given to the Nurses' Registration Acts of 1919.

Since the time of Florence Nightingale England has never lacked the most whole-hearted support of its Queens for every effort made to promote the efficiency of our nursing services. Queen Victoria devoted her great Jubilee gift to the foundation of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, while Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval and Imperial Military Nursing Services, the Territorial Army Nursing Service, and the Military Families Nursing Service owe much to the patronage and sympathy of the late Queen-Mother, and, since her death, to that of Her Majesty Queen Mary, whose interest in our hospitals is too well known to call for reference. A glance at the recent issues of a prominent nursing publication will show that this solicitude for the suffering is by no means an attribute of British Queens only, but that other great Queens of our time have done much to encourage the development of skilled nursing, while, if you open the State Register of Trained Nurses of England and Wales you will find, in that Official Register of qualified nurses, the name of a Member of our present Royal House—H.R.H. the Princess Arthur of Connaught, Duchess of Fife."

HOUSE BEAUTIFUL FUND.

ACQUISITORS SECTION.

Since our last list of gifts was issued we have received the following for our china collection:—

A very rare Shorthose bowl from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, a willow pattern dish from Miss Brown, a Wedgwood plate from Mr. and Mrs. Lomax Earp, an old willow pattern plate from Mrs. Glover, four pieces of old glass from Miss Isabel Macdonald, and a Wedgwood plate from Major Rigg, O.B.E.

The beauty of our drawing-room is greatly added to by its two cabinets, with their lovely blue and white treasures, and it is exceedingly interesting to see their collection grow.

SUGGESTIONS INVITED.

We shall be exceedingly glad to receive from Members suggestions for the various fixtures, social and otherwise, to take place at Headquarters during the autumn. So far very little has been arranged regarding these. Miss Macdonald hopes to be "At Home" to the Members on October 2nd. On October 16th Major Rigg, O.B.E., has kindly promised to lecture on "The Knights Templar" a subject which, for various reasons, ought to prove interesting to nurses. During October, before the Private Nurses become too busy, we hope to have another of the dances which have proved so successful during the past two years. We trust that, when we return to work, many suggestions will have reached the Office to help us to issue a "Club Calendar" as full of variety, usefulness and enjoyment as it is possible to have it. It is only through co-operation and the helpfulness of individual Members that this can be done.

The work of the Benevolent Funds has been going on steadily throughout the year, and the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund has, in the last six months alone, already nearly doubled last year's annual income from subscriptions and donations. This is largely due to the voluntary help given by Members of the R.B.N.A. There is still much to be done, however, and we shall be glad to have letters from Members who are prepared to give up one day in the year to voluntary work for the Benevolent activities of their Profession. We prefer to have this work done

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