

door locked?" was in the negative, but these handleless doors amount to pretty much the same thing as a locked door. A custom prevalent when Mrs. Chesterton spent her week in the Underworld was that of giving the men in the Casual Ward their tea at 5 in the morning and the women what was left over at 6. This, however, has been altered. Lack of space forbids our going through the various vicissitudes of match selling and a number of other street occupations which Mrs. Chesterton experienced.

Mrs. Earp, in thanking the Lecturer, emphasised the splendid work which Mrs. Chesterton has done in bringing to light many of the tragedies of the Underworld, of the dreadful indignities which are put upon poverty, of the want of understanding and the injustice which often arises from women being numbed from want of sleep and continual walking, not to mention hunger and cold; she drew attention to the fact that Mrs. Chesterton had urged that the women of England themselves should try to make themselves better acquainted with the conditions of life of the poor instead of leaving it to political workers, the London County Council, and other organisations.

Miss Macdonald proposed a vote of thanks to Her Royal Highness the President for her kindness in taking the Chair. It had given great pleasure when a few days before, Her Royal Highness had telephoned and intimated that she would herself preside at this lecture.

THE BENEVOLENT FUNDS.

We have received one or two offers of clerical assistance for our Benevolent Funds, but there is still a considerable amount of work in connection with which we would be very glad to have help; it is to be remembered that these Funds are not drawn upon for office salaries. The large amount of expert clerical work required is all done voluntarily by the various Members of the office staff. Each one takes her share and often gives a considerable amount of overtime work to the various Benevolent schemes; there is, however, a good deal of envelope addressing, card indexing and other requirements of methodical organisation which can very easily be done by people who have not had secretarial training, and it will help us to relieve anxieties of sick and aged members of our profession if some Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association will be so kind as to give us a few hours' voluntary work occasionally at the office. Members in residence at the Club very frequently do so, but private nurses are usually in for short intervals only, while Members who come up from the country on a visit to town naturally have very little time to spare.

ISABEL MACDONALD, S.R.N.
Secretary to the Corporation.

THE BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Biennial Meeting of the American Nurses' Association will this year be held at Atlantic City, from May 17th to 22nd. Miss Adda Eldredge, in a signed article in the *American Journal of Nursing* writes, concerning the question of dues to the International Council of Nurses, and how they are to be met, that this is "another of the problems which will be presented to the nurses at the Atlantic City meeting, for which extensive plans are now under way."

An innovation on schedule for this year is the holding of conferences to replace the round tables of former years. Interest in all phases of nursing has grown to such an extent that round tables are no longer adequate to cover the scope of the subjects coming up, and they will be handled in the larger conferences.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NURSES.

THE PART OF THE NURSE IN THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION.*

By PROFESSOR A. W. GOODRICH, R.N., M.A.,
Dean of School of Nursing, Yale University, Newhaven Connecticut, U.S.A.

[ABRIDGED.]

It would, I think, be impossible for anyone from the most recent members of our profession to the most experienced in the field, or even the interested onlooker, to foregather here without a rush of emotion as the significance of this Convention, in doubtless varying degrees, is borne in upon them, a significance that we might profitably contemplate for the brief moment assigned to this paper, raising the curtain, as it were, for a swift glance upon a vast and dazzling pageant in which is presented the life history of the human family that has inherited the earth. As the great drama unfolds, presenting ever new situations, more brilliantly staged through ever greater elaboration of material and complex and intricate machinery designed for and by increasing multitudes, there is through all and apparent to all thoughtful observers, an undeniably consistent unity—unity of ideal, of purpose, of achievement—a power which we shall venture to express as an international collective mind, unanimous in its acceptance of certain emotions as goods, and of certain emotions as evils; consciously or unconsciously marshalling its forces for an ever strengthening of the goods and weakening of the evils; not blind to the inability to interpret these accepted goods into practical action, nay acutely aware that to-day, not less than yesterday, while theologically, philosophically, even scientifically proclaiming unity, practising, asserting as inevitable, even glorifying means which breed separation, dissension and destruction; nevertheless seeking unremittingly through ever-new methods for the answer, always holding high above the battle the dream, ideal, belief, or what-you-will, of the social integration through which may be attained ever-higher reaches for man as a physical, mental, and spiritual entity—a high hope and purpose never lost through departing civilisations.

ADVANCE ON THREE COUNTS.

For acknowledge as we must that civilisations have come and gone, that to-day, in the twentieth century, power, expressing itself through force aided and abetted by science, is more dominating and more devastating than ever; that increase in crime outstrips the increase in adult population; that mental deviations are the inheritance of an ever-increasing multitude; that, in short, those stated conditions universally deplored as evils are on the upward curve. Nevertheless, in the very acknowledgment, is sounded, let us hope, their death-knell, for on three counts we have advanced: We perceive, we dare to question, and the "we" connotes an ever-increasing unit of Western and Eastern civilisation. If there are those who see the world made up of warring personalities, there are also those who see the rise and fall of human life and human projects as an ever re-ploughing and re-harrowing of the ground and enriching of the soil, through which emerge qualitatively—not less than quantitatively—strengthened, the new generations. If there are those who see the predominance of the forces of destruction, there are also those who see one generation leaning yearningly over the next. It should never be forgotten that the Red Cross was conceived in the heat of battle as a symbol of an international mission of succour; that nursing, as a professional service—remedial,

* A Paper presented at the International Congress of Nurses, Helsingfors, July, 1925.

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