

impressionable moments and periods. She is through all these factors a force in the creation of habits of thought and action now understood to become formed and fixed at a far earlier period, and of greater influence, than generally, if indeed at all, appreciated. With the knowledge now available relating to the simple laws of hygienic living and their application to the creation of a mentally, physically, even morally normal human being—it is hardly possible to conceive that a social worker so numerically strong, so universally accepted as the nurse, should graduate from any school or enter any home without at least such awareness of this development in relation to human life as will assure a better direction of the mental—as well as physical—of the eventual as well as the immediate well-being of those with whom she is thrown in contact. Evidence of a belief in the value of man through all his diversities of expression may be found in the projection by various groups of Public Health programmes into country after country for the preservation and improvement of each country's own type.

Mr. Bertrand Russell points out in his "Progress of Industrial Democracy," as the four goods which would be universally accepted—instinctive happiness, friendly feeling, love of beauty, and knowledge. I am of the opinion that he may state that in every child who has not been impregnated with the seeds of disease or prejudice—that is to say, in every normal child—we find these first two goods, instinctive happiness and friendly feeling. In so asserting, let me again emphasise that one of the important conclusions of psychologists is the very early stage at which impressions are made and habits of thought and action fixed in the child, and their relation to deviations from normal, both mental and physical. May I call attention also to the emphasis which is now placed upon the effect of pre-natal care upon a child's physical well-being. Accepting these statements as fact imposes upon each generation the duty of increasing this precious heritage of goods for the next. May we not further state that to open the door of knowledge is to increase a love of beauty.

Says Dr. Dewey: "To claim that intelligence is a better method than its alternatives, authority, imitation, caprice and ignorance, prejudice and passion, is hardly an excessive claim. Because intelligence is critical method applied to goods of belief, appreciation, and conduct, so as to construct freer communication of shareable meanings, turning feeling into ordered and liberal sense, turning reaction into response, it is the reasonable object of our deepest faith and loyalty, the stay and support of all reasonable hopes."\*

Acquiescence in this demands of us as nurse educators—and I assert that every nurse, whether she will or no, is an educator—renewed and unceasing effort that those whose opportunity is so great shall themselves be its highest expression.

It is said that we are but a second-class planet. To find ourselves transported to another plane will, indeed, at least to a lover of new trails, be a great adventure, but the supreme satisfaction will arise from the backward glance, over dear Mother Earth, that reveals her children as attaining to the stature of gods through the medium of a universal intelligence in the creation and cultivation of which the nurse has not failed in her part.

#### "THE QUAIR OF THE BOND."

"The Quair of the Bond" is the quaint title of the first issue of a chronicle of the doings of the past and present nursing staff of the Fulham Infirmary, Hammersmith. It is the most original magazine of its kind we have seen and, as such, well worth the cost of 1s. It is sent free to all members of the Bond who have paid their dues.

\* "Experience and Nature," p. 437: John Dewey. (Open Court Publishing Co., Chicago and London.)

## NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

### THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The Annual Meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland was held at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., on Saturday, February 27th. Miss H. L. Pearse, S.R.N., President of the Council presided.

Arising out of the Minutes, Miss K. A. Smith, S.R.N., R.R.C., Hon Secretary, reported a letter from the Minister of Health in reference to a communication sent by the last meeting, also a letter from Miss A. E. Hulme, S.R.N., expressing her sincere thanks for "such a lovely little gift" as the tea-caddy which had been sent her as a memento of her many years of service as Hon. Secretary of the Matrons' Council.

Miss Smith reported that she and Miss Villiers had attended by invitation, a most interesting meeting organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship on the previous evening.

The Hon. Officers, Miss K. A. Smith and Miss S. A. Villiers, then presented their reports for the year 1925, which were discussed and adopted. Both officers consented to serve again for the ensuing year, and were elected by acclamation, Miss Smith as Hon. Secretary, and Miss Villiers as Hon. Treasurer.

Miss A. E. Hulme and Miss Stewart Bryson were elected as Vice-Presidents for a term of three years.

Two important subjects had been placed on the Agenda for discussion.

(1) A letter from the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, to which the Matrons' Council is affiliated, concerning a special effort to raise a fund in support of the International and National Councils of Nurses. The Council decided to join in a combined effort for this purpose.

(2) A letter from the League of the Church Militant in relation to the Resolution of the National Council of Women in support of the Ministry of Women. By a considerable majority the Council expressed itself in favour of the proposition.

New members were elected and the meeting then terminated, when a dainty tea was served.

### PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

MISS MACCALLUM THANKS MANY FRIENDS.

The sickroom of Miss Maude MacCallum has been kept sweet and bright by gifts of flowers from Her Majesty the Queen, H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught, R.R.C., S.R.N., Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., Miss Beatrice Kent, S.R.N., Miss Lloyd-Still, R.R.C., S.R.N., Miss Isabel Macdonald, S.R.N., Mrs. Atherton Earp, S.R.N., Miss Margaret Breay, S.R.N., Major Sir Richard Barnett, M.P., Mr. Theodore Goddard, and Col. E. F. W. Barker.

To enumerate all colleagues and friends who have kept her room fragrant with flowers and fruit would be an almost impossible task, but she sincerely wishes to thank all those who have been so good to her in her illness.

#### THE ANNUAL DANCE.

The Annual Dance of the Social Club of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, which took place at St. Marylebone Hall on Friday, February 5th, was a huge success.

Many original fancy dresses were worn, and five prizes were awarded to ladies, and three to gentlemen.

Everybody seemed to have a thoroughly good time, and the Chairman and Officers of the Union wish to express their thanks to all who helped to make the evening such a success.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)