

fifty at night. The hours of work of junior probationers are ostensibly 60 per week, of staff nurses 62, and of Sisters 48, but practically neither Sisters nor nurses can leave the wards at the appointed times on account of the high pressure of work, and meals are taken hurriedly out of proper hours.

Dr. White, who is on the Board of Examiners of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, goes on to say:—

"The obligations laid upon the guardians by the General Nursing Council, as the determining authority for State Registration of Nurses, increase the strain thrown upon the probationers, who are constantly being prepared in classes and in the wards for the preliminary and final examinations of the Council. These examinations are held every three months and I am obliged to keep the nurses studying continuously for the examinations, because it is in the interest of the whole staff that as many out of each batch presenting themselves should pass the examiners; otherwise the number for preparation increases, the wards are depleted more and more as the candidates are drawn from them for their lectures or demonstrations, and the number of probationers who can be pushed on towards completion of their training diminishes, therefore preventing the senior posts rendered vacant by consecutive resignations of the certificated staff nurses being filled by competent probationers well abreast of their studies. . . . But I am of opinion that the more conscientious and hard-reading girl is rendered less capable physically by reason of the high pressure at which she must take her so-called off-duty time—too largely eaten into by stewing in class-room or bedroom over problems laid carefully by thoughtless cranks in the path of women totally unable, from a variety of causes, to deal even partially and superficially with them."

The *Lancet* remarks on this Report:—

"That the physical type of would-be probationers is not so satisfactory as it used to be is an unfortunate addition to the circumstances which reinforces Dr. White's recommendation of an increase of 11 in the staff. The guardians have, in fact, arranged for their appointment, and have resolved that suitable accommodation should be provided for them. But Dr. White's report raises important issues which must not be forgotten because the arrangements at Shirley Warren are likely to improve. It is deplorable that they should ever have existed, and the story is a sufficient reply to those who consider that a waning public spirit in the young is responsible for the decreased entry to the nursing profession. There is a growing demand for healthy conditions of life, and it is essential that there should never be any hint that nurses are exploited."

We always admire the loyalty with which American nurses acclaim and support their leaders, and from the *Johns Hopkins Nurses Alumnae Magazine*, we learn of one more evidence of this commendable habit. We learn that "many of Miss Nutting's students and friends desired to show their affection for her and appreciation for her work which has expressed itself in her great contribution to the nursing profession. It was decided that the tribute should take the form of a fund which

she could use for travel, research, and publication. The opportunity to contribute was given to former students of the Johns Hopkins Hospital School for Nurses and the department of Nursing Education, Teachers College. The responses were numerous and spontaneous; the sum of 3000.00 dollars was deposited to her account. Miss Nutting's letter, which follows, will show her appreciation of this gift."

MY DEAR MISS WOLF,—I am entirely unable to acknowledge in any fitting way your letter telling me of the very great generosity which my students of the past thirty-five years have shown in their wonderful gift. There are moments in life when all words fail, and my gratitude is indeed beyond any attempt at measuring. I can only say that nothing in my life has given me greater happiness than this evidence of the love and trust of the women with whom I have worked both as students and as friends for so many years.

There could be no better gift than the one you have chosen to make—that which would put into my hands the power to do such further work in our beloved profession as my capacity and strength permit. It is in this hope that I can accept your gift and trust to the future to be able to make the right use of it.

For giving me this opportunity may I offer to all of you not only my deep gratitude but my boundless affection.

Faithfully yours,

ADELAIDE NUTTING.

Miss Nutting accompanied by Miss Nevins, formerly the charming matron of the Garfield Hospital, Washington (where we once enjoyed a delightful time), set sail for Palermo, and after some weeks of rest in sunny Sicily, they have planned to spend the remainder of the year making a leisurely tour through Italy, Switzerland, and France, with possibly a visit to Greece. We hope these two revered women will not pass us by in their travels.

More than 5,000 women representing every department of the nursing profession in America will gather at Atlantic City, May 17th to 22nd, for the biennial convention of the national nursing organisations. Nurses from every State in the Union and from Porto Rico, Hawaii, and Canada will be present at the convention which will be the largest gathering of professional women ever held in the United States. An aggregate membership of 60,000 is represented in the three participating organisations, the American Nurses' Association, the National League of Nursing Education, and the National Organisation for Public Health Nursing.

In addition to nurses from the private duty field, there will be in attendance nurses holding administrative and executive positions in hospitals and other institutions, faculty members of nursing schools, public health nurses, industrial nurses, members of the medical profession, social service workers, and anaesthetists.

THE CHAIRMAN OF STANDING COMMITTEE A.

Our readers will be interested to learn that Major Sir Richard W. Barnett has been appointed Chairman of Standing Committee A in the House of Commons, to which the Midwives and Maternity Homes Bill has been referred. It is unlikely that the Bill will be considered by the Committee before the Easter Recess.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)