

## NURSING ECHOES.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has now been the Official organ of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain since 1904, when its Provisional Committee was formed, and has thus for nearly a quarter of a century helped to consolidate it, and the International Council of Nurses. No journal has more successfully kept alive the spirit of world solidarity in the Nursing World, and its reports of the international gatherings have been second to none, indeed, precedence in this connection must be given to them. We hope therefore that every affiliated member of our National Council will read and enjoy our report of the Geneva Conference, from month to month.

A fresh phase has arisen in the case of Nurse Daniels, the young English nurse, the cause of whose death while on a day's visit to Boulogne has never yet been solved, by the decision of the Examining Magistrate to apply for the extradition of Nurse McCarthy, the friend who accompanied her to Boulogne but was unable to find her when the time came for the return journey.

Eleven hundred children from South West St. Pancras, the constituency of Major Sir Richard Barnett, M.P., had a day's happiness in Epping Forest on August 4th. The day was ideal, and 31 three-horse wagonettes carried loads of sheer happiness to Chingford. An adult was in charge in each case, and ubiquitous boy scouts played their usual helpful part. A halt was made for much appreciated drinks of lemonade, and dinner was served by the Royal Oak Hotel, Chingford. Sir Richard Barnett went down for lunch, and in the afternoon there were sports and races on the sports ground at the back of the hotel, the prizes being presented by Sir Richard to the fortunate winners. Two Sisters from the Registered Nurses Society were by his request in attendance in case of any casualties amongst such a large party. They set up a dressing station, and also enjoyed their day, the casualties being small in number and unimportant, but the dressing station proved very popular, and appeared to be regarded by the children as one of the attractions of the day. Soon after tea a start was made for the return journey, and the children arrived at home at about 7 p.m., merry and happy, and in some instances even sunburnt.

Miss Hally Flack, R.N., in the July issue of *The American Journal of Nursing*, gives a most interesting account of the organisation of a History-of-Nursing Society by the Nursing Students of Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York. Miss Flack writes:—

"The desire for a permanent organisation that would foster and stimulate interest in the collection, study and preservation of historical data led the students of the History-of-Nursing class to organise the History-of-Nursing Society of Teachers' College. This is the first definite step that has been taken, by nurses, to organise for this purpose. These students have had the privilege of Professor Isabel Stewart's interpretation of nursing history, and they have responded to her dynamic enthusiasm and have also had

the unique opportunity of browsing in the Adelaide Nutting Historical Collection, which is housed in Russell Hall Library. It seems fitting, therefore, that here at Teachers' College should arise the first Society for the purpose of perpetuating an interest in nursing history. When it was suggested that a Society be formed to further interest in nursing history with the object of collecting authentic data from living pioneers in nursing, and of encouraging the writing of current history by those taking part in its making, the group expressed a unanimous desire to launch plans for forming such a Society without delay. Accordingly a committee of five was appointed to draw up a tentative plan of objectives and activities for the proposed organisation.

"It was agreed that when the committee had drawn up a plan of organisation they meet with Miss Nutting, and present the plan to her for her criticism. This was done, and the hour spent with that beloved leader will be long remembered. It was a humble but resolute quintette that left her presence that evening—humble, because of the vastness of the undertaking as unfolded by our far-sighted counsellor; resolute, because of the inspiration she gave, and because of her confidence in their ability to help in carrying on the magnificent work which she and other nursing pioneers have so nobly begun."

Miss Nutting has consented to act as Honorary President of the new Society, and Miss Isabel Stewart as Faculty Adviser. Miss Marion Wells has been elected President, Miss Hally Flack, Vice-President, Miss Louise Oates, Secretary, Miss Helen Munson, Treasurer, and Miss Mary Power, Librarian.

Miss Flack concludes:—

"With the interest that is already being evidenced in the new Society, as well as the declaration of some of its members to form similar societies in South America, India, Finland and other foreign countries from whence they come, it can hardly be considered too visionary to look forward to the not-too-far future when such scattered units may unite in national and international organisations, meeting at the same time as our other professional associations."

Nearly four years ago two Indian ladies, Miss Ismat Maula Bahksh and Miss Lavinia Mewa, were sent to England to train as nurses by the Lady Reading Fund for Indian women and children. They entered the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, N.W.1, for general training and subsequently took midwifery training (both gaining the certificate of the Central Midwives Board) in the same hospital. Miss Maula Bahksh returned to India after two years in England, but Miss Mewa elected to take a full general training and went to the Dreadnought Hospital, Greenwich, which is affiliated to the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital. She has now returned to India having succeeded in passing not only her hospital examination but the C.M.B. examination and the Preliminary and Final State examination. She also gained some experience at "Moorfields" Ophthalmic Hospital, and goes back to her own country fully qualified to take a Sister's post and pass on to others the knowledge she has gained in England.

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