

administration of the Service has been created, and that it is filled by a pupil of Miss Isla Stewart.

Those Sisters and Nurses who have resigned their positions at Park Prewitt Mental Hospital, near Basingstoke, as a protest against the dismissal of Dr. H. C. McManus, a Medical Officer in the institution, by a Sub-Committee of the Visiting Committee, of which the Duke of Wellington is Chairman, are, we consider, as a matter of principle, entirely justified.

To dismiss an officer of a public institution, without explicitly giving him the reason, to which he is entitled, is contrary to the English sense of justice, also the matter should have been dealt with by the whole Committee, not by a Sub-Committee. The public is quite in the dark as to the reasons which actuated the decision of the Sub-Committee. If they were valid, the Visiting Committee would no doubt have had public feeling with it in dealing with the situation. It did not take this course and public feeling is therefore with the medical officer.

We call upon the Duke of Wellington (Chairman of the Visiting Committee at Park Prewitt Mental Hospital), to make a public statement on the question.

The Boulogne magistrate who is conducting the inquiry into the death of Nurse Daniels has been officially informed that the British Government has refused the request which he made last July for the extradition of Miss McCarthy, on the ground that the reasons put forward in support of the claim were insufficient to justify extradition.

The work of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada—beneficent and far flung—is of outstanding importance, and the Report of the Board of Governors, recently issued, is especially interesting, for in it is published the "Draft of Proposed Operative Provisions in the Further Supplementary Letters Patent now prayed for" (or with reference to amendments to the Royal Charter). Included in these provisions are the Objects of the Order.

The Petition has received the approval of His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada (the Viscount Willingdon) and has been transmitted through the Under Secretary of State for His Majesty's consideration.

At the Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Order, at which the President, Mr. C. A. Magrath, presided, her Excellency the Viscountess Willingdon, Hon. President, spoke very enthusiastically of the Order, saying: "I am very proud to be Honorary President of the Victorian Order of Nurses. It is doing a truly marvellous work, and a work which no other body can do."

In an address on "Volunteer Values," Dr. Helen R. Y. Reid spoke a trinity of ideals expressed in the message of the late Governor-General, Lord Byng of Vimy, who gave as his parting message a call to Unity; the welcome greeting of his Excellency Lord Willingdon, then so recently arrived in Canada, which was a call to co-operation—an appeal for mutual understanding on which to base mutual endeavour and action; and another well-beloved Governor-General, the fourth Earl Grey, had addressed to Canadians and to the rest

of his fellow-men, from his death-bed in 1917, a striking message. The two words "Disinterested Service" from his lips still ring down the years to those who loved him.

"So," said the speaker, "we return, in closing, to the ideals set before us by our three Governors-General—Unity, Co-operation, and Disinterested Service. Should we not conclude as a result of our considerations, that it is not only our privilege but our duty to incarnate these ideals in action. In order to achieve our true Canadian destiny we must learn that patriotism is not enough! In order to fulfil our daily task in forwarding the well-being of the community we must learn that good will is not enough! The way of service is the way of work—hard work—fine work! And this way—this better way—lies through the avenues of education and association—through loving understanding and understanding love."

A very interesting Report was submitted by Miss Elizabeth L. Smellie, R.N., R.R.C., Chief Superintendent, concerning the manifold activities of the Order, in which is incorporated an appreciation of the Staff. Miss Smellie wrote:—

"To those associated with me professionally as assistants, district supervisors, supervisors or staff nurses, I assure them their loyal support is appreciated, realising fully as I do that any progress made depends largely on the individual nurse, is a result of her daily work, and of her contact in the field, and that any step forward taken centrally is a natural result of her services and possible only because of the happy relationship existing among our staff."

At its conclusion the Board of Governors extended "the thanks of the Order to Miss Elizabeth Smellie, Chief Superintendent, for her most interesting and comprehensive report of the year's work."

The Board also recorded its sincere appreciation of the splendid service given by its nurses not only to the Local Associations, but to all the people throughout the Dominion with whom the Victorian Order Nurse comes in contact.

### A THREE GUINEA PRIZE COMPETITION.

A Prize of £3 3s. is offered by Mrs. Rebecca Strong, F.B.C.N., for the best paper of not more than 1,200 words on "Why Registered Nurses should join the British College of Nurses,"—the paper to be founded upon the Constitution and Bye-Laws of the College which are published on pages 267-271 of this issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

The article, which must be written or typed on one side of the paper only, should be addressed to the Editor, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Office, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, and reach her not later than Thursday, November 24th.

Each competitor should sign the article with a pseudonym, and attach to it a sealed envelope, bearing the pseudonym on the outside, in which is enclosed her name and address.

The Editor reserves the right to withhold the prize should none of the papers submitted come up to the required standard.

The result of the competition will be published in our December issue.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)