

MRS. STRONG, F.B.C.N., EXPLAINS THE OBJECTS OF THE B.C.N. IN SCOTLAND.

There was a pleasant and interesting Meeting in the Recreation Hall of the "Nurses' Home" at the Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley, on Wednesday, January 12th, which was kindly arranged by the Matron, Miss Cowie, for the purpose of hearing Mrs. Strong, F.B.C.N., explain the objects and aims of the British College of Nurses. Amongst those present were Mrs. Young, Ecclestown, Paisley, a lady who takes great interest in the Infirmary, and nurses generally, and Miss Finn, Matron of the Paisley Institution, Craw Road, also some sisters from neighbouring hospitals, a most enthusiastic and inspiring gathering.

Mrs. Strong gave a slight sketch of the history of the preliminary classes for pupil nurses introduced in the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, in 1893, and stated her reasons for not joining the College of Nursing, Ltd., and also pointed out that some of the ladies who had strenuously opposed the Registration for Nurses in the early days, claimed in 1920 that the College of Nursing, Ltd., with which they were connected had in less than four years after the establishment of the College secured the Royal Assent to Acts of Parliament for the State Registration of Nurses, entirely ignoring the fact that in 1908 a Bill for the same purpose was passed in the House of Lords.

She then went on to tell of the great Gift which has been made for the founding of a British College of Nurses, which was thought out most perfectly in every detail before asking its acceptance; nothing was left to chance. The limited means of the profession were fully considered, and the impossibility of nurses maintaining a College without a very substantial endowment, and also the difficulty of the majority of nurses making adequate provision for sickness and old age. So very much is, she said, demanded from the nurse now in the way of proficiency that by the time she is fully equipped she has not been able to think of her future.

Mrs. Strong laid great stress on the definite provision made for assisting the nurse in every possible way, as she said she fully realised the difficulty of nurses realising that this was a genuine desire to help the nurse. Being intimately connected with nursing since the year 1867 she could, she declared, safely say it was the first time that nurses had received adequate assistance to build up a solid structure for themselves, and become an increased power for good in the community. The Annuity Fund in itself was enough to show the solidarity of the scheme. £2,000 to be invested annually, and not to be used until 1936, and this fund to be augmented each year until a large endowment has been secured. Then there was the Benevolent Fund which was to be so quickly available—one year from the time of becoming a member, in cases of necessity—was another evidence.

She pointed out that until suitable Headquarters were secured, which it was hoped might be possible at an early date, there could be no thought of establishing centres or branches; meantime she hoped the Scottish Nurses' Association would exert itself, and again take a prominent position by getting the younger members of the profession to join, and be ready to take part in the larger work.

OUR FELLOWS.

WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

Miss Gladys Stephenson, F.B.C.N.

Miss Gladys Stephenson, F.B.C.N., writes from Cleveland Ohio, U.S.A., where she has been studying at the Western Reserve University School of Nursing:—

"I returned to the College last Monday after the Christmas vacation. I had a perfectly wonderful time and was able to do a little publicity work for the I.C.N. Miss Simpson had preceded me to Washington, and when I reached there from Cleveland I was astonished to hear that through the American Red Cross arrangements had been made for us to have an audience with the President of the United States at the White House!

"It came about in this way. Last year a member of our Association was home on leave from China, and through her brother, who is on the staff at the White House, she had seen the President, and told him something of our work in China. The President then sent his greetings to our Conference, which took place in February, before we sailed home. The Conference was very pleased, and of course returned their greetings and appreciation to the President, which was duly recorded in the Minutes, and I thought no more about it. However, our indefatigable Secretary (Miss Simpson) thought we should take them in person, and it turned out that we did so.

"We first saw the President's doorkeeper, an official there, and he took us to the Secretary, and after sitting a few minutes in an ante-room, in front of a glowing pine-log fire, we were shown into the room where the President was sitting.

He rose, shook hands with us, asked us to be seated, and then chatted awhile with us about China and Japan in general.

He again emphasised his goodwill with the work of our Nurses. We are quite sure they will be delighted to hear of this. Our Chinese Nurses belong to the sensible, rather conservative, element in China, who repudiate the action of those hot-headed young students who are being influenced by the communists in a disastrous fashion. As Miss Gage's letter to me this week said: 'Let's hope they will soon get over these measles.' The Communist element have been turned out of South China, and they now are in Central China trying to instil Soviet principles into everyone.

"We gleaned many suggestions for our I.C.N. programme.

"Miss Noyes kindly arranged a luncheon for us, at which we met some of the Nursing Leaders of the Army and Navy Veterans' Nursing Service, the Public Health Service, &c. We also spent a delightful half-day with Major Julia Stimson of the Army Nursing Service.

"We were taken to Arlington to see their beautiful War Memorial, the tomb of the unknown soldier, Jane Delano's grave, and so on.

"The Headquarters of the American Red Cross is a beautiful building, white marble. Over its entire front is engraved:—

'Erected to the memory of the heroic women of the Civil War.'

The museum, beautiful paintings of Red Cross Nurses' work, pictures of Florence Nightingale, &c., all claimed my close attention.

"Washington is a truly beautiful city, more like Paris than London. No industries are allowed there to spoil the white marble buildings and tree lined streets. We visited the Capitol, and saw the Senate, and House of Representatives, both in Session. We also saw the Supreme Court. Here again many historical paintings, and the statuary gave us great pleasure in viewing them.

"From Washington an hour's ride took us to the Johns Hopkins Hospital where we spent two instructive and delightful days. Then we went on to Boston. Here we were

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