

MEETINGS ADDRESSED DURING THE PAST MONTH.

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, PERTH.

An influential gathering took place in the Nurses' sitting room of the County and City Royal Infirmary, Perth, a thoroughly up-to-date hospital, on Friday, February 11th, through the kindness of the Matron, Miss Thomson, a lady of progressive views, and one who is most anxious to further the welfare of her nursing staff. The object of the meeting was to hear from Mrs. Strong, one of the pioneers of modern nursing, the great advantages which have been offered to the whole of the British nursing world by an anonymous donor.

The names of some of the ladies present will show the great interest taken in the subject:—Miss Taylor (Lady Director), Miss Peel of Stanley, Mrs. Stewart (Perth). The following Matrons were present:—Miss Stewart (Fever Hospital, Perth), Miss Morris (City Hospital, Perth), Miss Djeurberg (Convalescent Home, Scone), Miss Williamson (Perthshire Nursing Federation), Miss MacCalman (Queen's Nurses, Perth).

There were also present School Board and District Nurses, with as many of the Infirmary nursing staff as could be relieved from duty.

Mrs. Strong related that in May of last year the princely sum of £100,000 was provided for the endowment of The British College of Nurses. Only the interest of the invested fund is to be used.

This gift was made to Dr. Bedford Fenwick, who was the first Treasurer of the Royal British Nurses' Association, until it obtained its Royal Charter, who fully realised the immense advantages of such a gift to the whole Nursing Profession, if properly employed, and therefore kindly undertook the great trouble, work and responsibility of Trustee and Treasurer of the College, for which the speaker thought and hoped he would gain the gratitude of the British nursing world.

Mrs. Strong gave "a little sketch of the circumstances that led to this wonderful gift," and how it came in an almost miraculous manner. Many who had stood together clinging to their long cherished hope of an organised Profession for Nurses governed by themselves, suddenly awoke on a bright May morning, 1926, to find the wherewithal had been provided, going beyond their wildest hopes. It came as the "Manna" of old.

A striking feature of the Infirmary is the new "Forteviot Maternity Block." It is a one storied building with a southerly aspect, both wards and private rooms have glass doors opening on to the covered verandah running the full length of the building, which consists of two wards, each containing eight beds. One double, and two single rooms for private patients, on most moderate terms.

The theatre is a most pleasant place to look upon, nothing alarming. The sanitary arrangements are perfect. I wonder if some other generous donor will do the same for middle class patients requiring general hospital treatment but unable to pay the high fees of the best Private Nursing Homes.

A fine large lecture room or hall is now being erected, and I heard whispers of a thought of a Nurses' Home, which if it comes to pass I am sure will be second to none. Recreation is not forgotten, there is a spacious tennis court, and well laid-out grounds. The whole working staff, including maids, are well cared for. A little more room to carry on the growing work of the Infirmary is all they ask. They are a happy family.

The County of Perth may well be proud of its Infirmary, and I hope they will go on carrying out their ideals. It has a well equipped training school, and nurses on completion of their general training, may, if they desire, pass on to the Maternity Home as pupil midwives, leaving their training

school, six months later, possessing both general nursing and C.M.B. certificates, making a good foundation for the battle of life.

R. S.

THE ELIZABETH GARRETT ANDERSON HOSPITAL.

On February 16th by the courtesy of the Matron, Miss Mary Lewis, a meeting of the Nursing Staff was held in the Board Room of the above hospital at 8.30 p.m.. Mrs. Lancelot Andrews and Miss Grace Reynolds Hale represented the Council, and the former was introduced by Miss Lewis. Mrs. Andrews spoke of her association with the hospital through its first treasurer, Mrs. Westgate, and of her interest in the pioneer medical women and their work, and gave a *résumé* of the work of the promoters of State Registration and the self-sacrificing efforts they made to procure it. Mrs. Andrews, who is a most forceful and eloquent speaker, then gave a *résumé* of the constitution, aims and objects of the British College of Nurses, and invited those present to realise their professional responsibility—to think seriously of its importance as regards their future. The audience were evidently much interested in Mrs. Andrews' address, and informally at the termination of the meeting, invited further information on many details.

Coffee and cakes were hospitably provided—always an incentive to friendly relations—and the Council has to thank Miss Lewis for her kindness in giving the staff an opportunity of listening to Mrs. Andrews, and of considering the future development of nursing education, and their own economic conditions.

THE NORTHERN HOSPITAL, WINCHMORE HILL.

A very interested audience of Sisters and Nurses at the Northern Hospital (M.A.B.) Winchmore Hill, N., assembled under the chairmanship of the Matron, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, F.B.C.N., on the afternoon of February 27th, to listen to an Address from Miss D. K. Graham, F.B.C.N., Member of the Council, British College of Nurses, on the aims and objects of the College.

Miss Graham spoke to some purpose, as, subsequently, some fifteen or sixteen Sisters and Nurses announced their intention of applying for Fellowship or Membership. We hope there will be many more such meetings with similar results as the majority of these forms have reached the office.

THE ROYAL WATERLOO HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

On February 28th, by the kind invitation of the Matron, Miss Gladys Simms, Mrs. Andrews was specially invited to speak to the Nursing Staff on the British College of Nurses, and attended a meeting at 8.30 at the hospital for this purpose together with Miss Hale.

Mrs. Andrews was introduced by the Matron, Miss Simms, and alluded to her friendship with Miss Simms, stating they were both trained at "Bart's," though Miss Simms was of a much younger generation [both were Gold Medallists of their year.—ED.], and referred to conditions of work prevailing in her day—pointing out how wonderfully these had improved in recent years. Mrs. Andrews then proceeded to address the audience on the basic principles on which the British College of Nurses was founded, and the prospect of more efficient education and economic progress if nurses took a personal interest in moulding their own professional affairs. The audience were apparently very interested and after the meeting discussed the address freely with Mrs. Andrews. Such exchange of opinion cannot fail to interest and educate members of the Council, and those with whom they came into touch, and the future policy of the British College will, we feel sure, be much influenced by the considered opinions of the rank and file, whose valuable work will receive more and more appreciation as time goes on.

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