

The liberal attitude of mind of Miss Simms, so greatly respected in nursing ranks, in relation to her hospital colleagues, might well be emulated by all those responsible for the younger generation of nurses. The wise policy of Miss Simms is to encourage freedom of thought amongst those for whose daily welfare and happiness she is responsible, —and thus to strengthen the moral fibre of members of the nursing profession at large.

FUTURE MEETINGS.

Meetings will be held—

At the London Temperance Hospital on March 7th, at 8.40 p.m.

At Highgate Hospital, on March 8th, at 9 p.m.

At the Royal Northern Hospital, March 9th, 8.30 p.m.

At Fulham Hospital, on March 10th, at 9 p.m.

At King Edward Memorial Hospital, Ealing, on March 23rd, at 8.30 p.m.

Mrs. Andrews has most kindly consented to address the nurses at these meetings.

OUR FELLOWS.

WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

Miss Jessie Holmes, F.B.C.N.

Some time ago we were talking to a very well-known artist of the present day and he made a remark that might apply to many things besides painting. "It does not matter so much whether a thing is perfect from the point of view of line and technique, what does matter is to make a lovely thing," and, in reading "A Pilgrimage to Gallipoli," by Miss Jessie Holmes, F.B.C.N., recently published by Messrs. Alexander-Ouseley, Ltd., Windsor Street, S.W.1 (price 1s. 6d.), we feel that she, in writing it, has experienced the pleasure that lies in "making a lovely thing." The very name of Gallipoli brings up thoughts of sadness, of hearts still sore because of the blows struck there, yet, without losing the consciousness, that Gallipoli was another Flodden, Miss Holmes has managed to carry through her pages a note of that "lovely thing" the "greater love," something too of the radiance that the practical interpretation of that love leaves behind it besides sorrow, some sense that there are fruits of sacrifice lying beyond the realm of human vision and the capacity of human conception. The book is calculated to bring comfort to hearts bereaved in Gallipoli. Once a writer, commenting on a particular article in our *B.J.N.* said, "It was good because it was natural, but it must have been a difficult article to write because it was always difficult to write what is natural," and, in reading Miss Holmes' book, we realise something of what he meant. It would be easy to write a very complete description of a pilgrimage to Gallipoli, comparatively easy to write a brilliant account of all that it stands for in history and ethics and chivalry now; but to write something that will reach the feeling of those who read, it is necessary that this should be born out of the writer's own feeling, out of one of the highest qualities of all—intuition. And Miss Holmes has succeeded in writing such a natural account of what she knows of Gallipoli and its environment that, had we been asked to name this book we should have liked to call it "A Garland from Gallipoli." In one part one reads of the quiet, the peace, the wonderful silences, of rosemary, flowers, fragrant perfumes and, penetrating it too, we sense always the sweet "savour of an offering" of men's lives to the cause of humanity and civilisation. Interpolated in this garland is a delightful little sketch of the life and personality of the soldier poet of Gallipoli—Rupert Brooke; and then follows a garland of "lovely things" culled from the inspiring mythology and the splendid history of an ancient civilisation that, in its ethics and standards of government, foreshadowed in many ways the dawn of the Christian era.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

TRADE UNIONISTS AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

The Minister of Health, who was accompanied by Sir Kingsley Wood, received on February 16th a deputation from the Trades Union Congress General Council, introduced by Mr. George Hicks, who submitted to him, amongst others, the following resolutions, passed by the Bournemouth Trades Union Congress, September, 1926:—

REGISTRATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

"That this Congress is of opinion that, in order to protect the interests of the mothers of the community, to safeguard the position of existing women Public Health Officers, and to raise the status of their profession, it is urgently necessary that a Register of Women Public Health Officers should be established by the Ministry of Health; the inclusion of an officer's name in such a Register to be a necessary qualification for all appointments of women in the Public Health Service."

This Resolution was spoken to by Miss Davies and the Minister promised to give careful consideration to what she had urged.

MENTAL HOSPITALS.

"That this Congress deplores the practice of employing female nurses for attendance on male insane patients, believing it to be detrimental to the best interests of the patients, harmful to their prospects of recovery, and dangerous to the interests of the nurses so employed."

This Resolution was spoken to by Mr. Gibbons, and the Minister replied that he had taken the best advice available and did not agree that it was in all cases preferable for male patients to be nursed by male nurses.

FOOD AND HEALTH.

Dr. John D. Ewart, Medical Superintendent, Manchester Union, Booth Hall Infirmary, Charlestown Road, Blackley, Manchester, writes in *The Times*: "The point raised by Surgeon Rear-Admiral Sir Percy Bassett-Smith in *The Times* with regard to the lack of vitamin B in infants in temperate climates has not been entirely overlooked. For some short time now, infants in the Booth Hall Infirmary for Children, Manchester, suffering from various skin conditions and oedema have been treated with vitamin B, given, not in the form of a proprietary preparation, but as fresh tomatoes and yeast given in sweetened warm milk. The duration of the test is as yet too short for dogmatic statements, but the results so far have been eminently satisfactory and warrant a continuance of the experiment on a larger scale."

PREVENTION THE GREAT WATCHWORD.

Sir Kingsley Wood, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, when opening the new building of the Prince Albert Convalescent Home at Worthing, of which the Duke of York is Patron, remarked that there is much to encourage us in hospital work to-day. We live, he said, in a golden age of medicine. The last 100 years have witnessed a growth in the science and art of medicine incomparably greater than in any other period in the history of mankind. One great discovery has followed rapidly on the heels of its forerunner. There has also been immense advance in education, domestic sanitation, personal hygiene, and the organisation of the health services of the country. But there is still much to do. Sickness and disability are costing the nation a huge sum of money, and much of the sickness and ill-health to-day are preventable. The nation should give more encouragement and recognition to research work. Money, said Sir Kingsley, is necessary, but the progress of research will always depend on the character and quality of the men who engage in it. A heavy life tax is still being

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)