

MEETING AT CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.

On the invitation of Miss M. S. Cochrane, F.B.C.N., Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the British College of Nurses, addressed a meeting of the Nursing Staff of the Hospital on Monday, December 6th, when although the hour fixed was 8.30 p.m. an alert and interested audience of white capped Sisters and Nurses filled the large room, and listened most attentively to an Address of over an hour's duration, afterwards asking most pertinent questions. Some visitors from other hospitals were also present.

Miss Cochrane, who was in the chair, in introducing the speaker, said that few words were necessary from her in this connection, for Mrs. Fenwick's work for the Nursing Profession was known, not only in Great Britain and Ireland, but throughout the world.

Mrs. Fenwick said it was a special gratification to her to address the Nursing Staff of Charing Cross Hospital as, for many years, a late Matron of the Hospital, Miss Mildred Heather-Bigg, had been intimately associated with her in working for the State Registration of Nurses, always in the interests of the Nurses.

The basic desire of the Trustees of the Endowment Fund of The British College of Nurses, was that it should be built up on the vote, and through the association and co-operation, of the Fellows and Members. This should not be so very difficult. For forty years she had been working for the organisation of Nurses on a self-governing basis, and the foundations were already laid. Then, they had before them the example of the Medical Profession for 500 years, and there was no body of professional men who had not thought it necessary to define and maintain educational standards and conditions.

In the past a small body of nurses came out—some 4,000—to support the demand for State Registration which really meant that they were women of character, energy, and constancy. They were opposed by persons of wealth, position, and high social influence, but were able to convince the whole world of the necessity of legal status for nurses under Acts of Parliament. This was granted to the Nurses of the United Kingdom in 1919. The Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses were therefore able to stand firmly on the basis of a legal status. They stood upon a rock, and could build upon it any edifice they chose.

It was a mistake to leave all the work in the hands of the few, it was quite time nurses realised that this was not a dignified position. During training they were fatigued, and occupied in their preparation for entering the Nursing Profession, but, when trained, it was their duty to themselves, the profession, and the public, to give some time, and financial support, to professional organisation, including professional education and economic security.

Under the endowment of £100,000 Registered Nurses had the opportunity of organising their own professional College, and they should also take their share in the evolution of their country, for every body of nurses touched outside interests, so closely were they associated with humanity.

At the conclusion of the meeting tea and coffee were served in an adjoining room. Conversation as to the British College of Nurses was heard on all sides, and application forms were in demand.

A GREAT HONOUR.

To the Registered Nurses' Society has fallen the great honour of nursing Dame Ellen Terry in her recent illness. Alas! the younger generation of nurses never saw the greatest English actress of the nineteenth century in her prime, but old *habitués* of the Lyceum who had that entrancing delight have memories of loveliness and grace never to be effaced.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

PURE FOOD.

If the nation is to be virile and healthy, it is essential that its food should be pure; and most especially is this the case with invalids. It is useless for a nurse to coax a patient to take food for which he has no hunger if, when this is accomplished, owing to its adulteration it does not provide the nourishment needed by his tissues; or, if it contains "preservatives" calculated to give even a healthy man indigestion. The same applies with ever-increasing force to the food given to infants and children of tender years, whose delicate membranes may easily be permanently damaged by preservatives.

The Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Amendment Regulations, 1926, postpone the operation of the Order of last year in certain particulars, but the Minister of Health decided that its main provisions must come into operation as arranged, on January 1st.

A number of communications had been received from various trade interests, representing that, owing to the exceptional industrial conditions or other causes, it had not been possible for retailers completely to clear their old stocks before the date on which the Regulations operate. In view of the time which has elapsed since the original Regulations were made and the desirability of avoiding further elaboration in regard to the dates of their application to particular commodities, the Minister stated he has not felt justified in acceding to the requests for further postponement.

Mr. Chamberlain has not proved sympathetic with the aspirations of nurses as a profession, but in his efforts to secure a pure food supply he should have their whole-hearted support.

We hope that all nurses, who in any way control the supply and administration of food, will do all in their power to safeguard its purity.

TRUE TALES.

Christmas Day.

Poor Law Guardian to Woman Casual: "I wonder you don't stay in the house for to-day, you'd be sure of your dinner, anyhow?"

Woman Casual: "Not much, on the day I can earn some 'alpence!"

P. L. G.: "How do you earn them?"

Woman Casual: "Oh, I goes into the street, and sings No-Hell, No-Hell."

Mustard Without the Beef.

P. L. G. (having listened to a pitiful tale): "Well, I'm truly sorry for you.

Woman Casual (scornfully): "What's the good o' that? Pity without 'elp is like mustard without the beef."

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