

Morrison's address, and was pleased to learn what a fine organisation Canadian Nurses had in their Association, and of such an independent nature.

Incidentally he remarked that the first Lady Member of Parliament in the Empire came from British Columbia.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING.

Miss M. E. Misner, R.R.C., F.B.C.N., then gave an interesting and exhaustive address on Public Health Nursing in Canada, including that of the Victorian Order of Nurses. She told how about 20 years ago a small city in one of the Southern States realised that school attendance and routine was being interfered with by a good deal of infectious disease, and decided to appoint a nurse to "go over" the school children with the object of detecting incipient cases of infectious disease, and of weeding out those affected by skin disease. That was all then proposed. Miss Lina Rogers, trained at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children, was the nurse appointed, and was thus the first school nurse in America. A little later she became the first school nurse in New York, and in 1910, by the urgent request of her home town, she returned to Toronto and became the first school nurse. The service was quickly expanded by the appointment of assistants. Then a school medical officer was appointed. At the end of four years it had increased to about 22 nurses, 12 doctors, and 5 dentists. It was an interesting fact that the school nurses paid for and set up the first dental chair and equipment in one of the schools in the poorer part of Toronto so as to give a demonstration of what could be accomplished, and the city then established a Civic Clinic for poor children, with a full staff of dentists to operate it. Later this was discontinued, as the School Board set up dental centres throughout the city.

Miss Misner described the routine duty of the nurses in the schools, their relations with the parents of the children and the conditions under which they paid visits to the homes. By 1916 a great change was seen in the children under supervision as to deportment, general appearance, intelligence, and, in what impressed the School Board most, the increased regularity of their attendance.

At each end of the city in a beautiful park, overlooking the Lake, Forest Schools were established, to which underweight and under-sized children were taken from the regular schools and sent, free of expense, from May till November. They spent their nights in their own homes, but left early each morning and returned at six o'clock. They had all meals and refreshments at the school, were taught to brush their teeth and blow their noses scientifically, were given physical training and lake bathing, and were tucked away in cots to sleep under the great trees every afternoon for two hours. Roof schools were also established for the same type of children as attended the Forest Schools. No child, however, was eligible for these classes until all physical handicaps had been removed. Carious teeth must be filled or extracted, septic tonsils and adenoids removed, and glasses fitted where needed for defective vision.

Owing to Army Service, Miss Misner was away from School Work for five years, and on her return to Canada with five other nurses accepted the position of Demonstrator of School Nursing for the Ontario Government Department of Education. The War and its attending revelation of the physical unfitness of such a large proportion of the men folk of Canada had stirred many people to action. It had always been supposed, said Miss Misner, that the farmers and those who worked in the open were bound to be stronger and healthier than the city men, but the medical examination for Army Service showed the fallacy of this. The Department of Agriculture was shocked to know how physically deficient these people were, simply

because they had no medical supervision, and sent out survey parties, consisting of doctors, dentists and nurses, to see how bad conditions really were. These parties held public meetings and talked health, they examined the children whenever they had permission to do so, and urged the people to establish a School Nursing Service, and offered grants to provide the necessary accommodation. Eventually, this work was handed over to the Board of Education.

In 1925, for the first time, Ontario appointed a Minister of Health, who decided to gather every form of Health Service under his own control. One of the officers appointed in his Department was a Director of Child Hygiene, and under him an Associate Director of School Nursing Service, and her two Assistants, of whom Miss Misner is one. They visit the outposts and hinterlands and give free service where the population is too scattered and the people too poor to pay for service. Their work is purely educational. They visit from home to home by motor car, and where there are a few settlements grouped near enough to make it possible for the people to attend, they work up Baby Clinics, and the Department of Health sends out doctors to do the examining.

Much else of interest was described by Miss Misner, who made her audience vividly realise the progress being made in Canada in all directions in connection with Public Health Nursing.

#### Vote of Thanks to the Speakers.

A hearty vote to the speakers was proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

Mrs. Fenwick said she had listened to the two addresses with very sincere interest. It was in the year 1892 that she paid her first visit to Canada, as a Member of the Women's Committee of the British Royal Commission in connection with the World's Fair in Chicago. To sail away across the Atlantic free as air was a delightful adventure, and she, of course, stepped off at Niagara, and put up on the Canadian side in the beautiful old Canadian House, long since swept away by fire. The first-floor bedroom windows all opened on to a wide verandah from which the magnificent Falls were visible; and never to be forgotten was the moonlit splendour of these flashing tumultuous waters. She watched them far into the night. Suddenly a young man was by her side, he, too, very intent.

"My Gawd! What a terrible waste!" he suddenly exclaimed.

"Waste?" she queried.

"Yes, marm, think of the *power*."

She was thinking of the glory.

"What would you do with it?"

"Hitch it!" he snapped out.

She believed these magnificent waters had been "hitched" in part for electrical purposes—and that some of the glory had departed.

Mrs. Fenwick reminded her audience that in 1892 no organisation of nurses on the American Continent existed. This question was debated and action taken in 1893 at a Nursing Conference at Chicago.

Mrs. Fenwick had the happiness of proposing to Miss Snively, of Canada, in 1908, that to qualify for federation in the International Council of Nurses (which met in London in the following year) Canada should organise a National Council of Nurses. This was done, and from Miss Morrison's report it was evident that this splendid Association "hitched" the nurses together for mutual help and efficiency from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and that no self-governing National Association of Nurses was more

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