

Royal Charter the College of Nursing did not take the opportunity of providing that its Governing Body should be entirely composed of Registered Nurses, who alone should be eligible for office and for seats on its Governing Body. As it is the College of Nursing continues to be a body largely governed by the laity and the Medical Profession, an exceedingly obsolete constitution, now that Nursing has been constituted a Profession by Act of Parliament, and the majority of its members are to enjoy political enfranchisement.

A great opportunity has been lost.

Mr. G. Q. Roberts, Secretary of St. Thomas's Hospital, London, speaking at the Conference of the British Hospitals Association at Southport, contrasting present-day problems with those of the past, said his immediate predecessor told him how he used to go round with the Matron choosing the extra nurses required from the old women who stood outside the hospital railings waiting for a job. The nurses slept in dormitories which were frequently garrets. The problems they had to consider now were how many reading rooms and bath-rooms should be provided for the nurses, and whether they should have a smoking room.

With the help of the Matron, Miss Goodacre, a unit of the South African Student Nurses' Association was recently formed at the Somerset Hospital, Cape Town, as reported in the *South African Nursing Record*. The Executive and representative Committees were elected by ballot. The unit was formally inaugurated and welcomed into the Western Province Branch of the Trained Nurses' Association by Mrs. Bennie, President of the South African Trained Nurses' Association.

The Association has since established four sub-sections, namely, a Swimming Club, Amateur Dramatic Society, Social and Debating Society, and an Orchestra. The half-yearly magazine, *The Tonic*, was also taken under their wing.

The Dramatic Section held a very successful concert on March 13th in the Lecture Hall at the Nurses' Home, when "Who's Who" and "Waiting for the Bus" were staged. The Medical Staff and friends of the nurses were invited. Mrs. Bennie, and Miss Alexander, Matron of the Johannesburg General Hospital, were among the guests. The Orchestra was in attendance.

Miss Clara D. Noyes, Director of the American Red Cross Nursing Service, gives as its Department Editorial in *The American Journal of Nursing*, an interesting account of the work of American Red Cross Nurses in foreign lands. It will be remembered that all the nurses of the American Red Cross Nursing Service are fully trained Registered Nurses. Of the Warsaw School Miss Noyes writes:—"The Warsaw School, organized and developed by Helen L. Bridge, is about to come under the direction of the graduates from the school itself. In a recent letter from the ex-Directors of this School, Miss Bridge (now Mrs. Charles Shartle) states: "Ten graduate nurses sent abroad for training by the Rockefeller Foundation have returned to Poland, and have been placed in the public health nursing field, and as teachers in the Warsaw and Krakow

School. One of these—Marja Babicka—the fourth graduate of the school, has been appointed nursing adviser to the National Ministry of Health. This is, indeed, a most progressive step. Imagine a Department of Health in the United States, similar to the War and Navy Department, with a secretary serving on the President's Cabinet. If you can visualise it you will be able to realize that the appointment of a nurse to a federal department of this nature is indeed a forward step. Another graduate was sent to England for a thorough course in midwifery. She has returned and is establishing midwifery training in Warsaw. Another has been in the United States for the past year, and has been studying systems of military nursing for the purpose of returning to that country to assist with the development of a suitable nursing service for the Army.

The Third Annual Report of the Frontier Nursing Service, Lexington, Kentucky, formerly the Kentucky Committee for Mothers and Babies, shows what can be accomplished by a woman of grit and determination, such as its Director, Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, has proved herself to be.

In the Foreword we read:—

The work of the Service has been greatly augmented by its building program during the past year. The Up River Center (Jessie Preston Draper) is finished; the Possum Bend Center (Frances Bolton) was entirely built; the Hyden Hospital and Health Center has been carried nearly to completion, and the preliminary arrangements are made for the new center (Clara Ford) in Clay County, on Red Bird River, near the mouth of Big Creek.

Even a casual glance at the itemised expenditures falling under Construction, will give some idea of the difficulty of building in the mountains. We ask our friends to bear in mind that all of these buildings are situated on mountain trails, reached only by mule teams, anywhere from six to thirty-four miles from the railroad, and that those supplies which could not be procured locally, such as hardware, plumbing, cement, etc., have had to be hauled, in all weather, over these trails. For the stone hospital at Hyden we have brought in three carload lots of cement and plaster and have had as many as fifteen teams engaged at one time in hauling them across.

A fall of rain and a rise of the river would stop all hauling for two or three weeks. We consider it a great compliment to our teamsters that none of these supplies have been injured or lost en-route. They were kept well protected by wagon covers and were never taken through the fords when the water was high enough to wet the wagon bed.

#### THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.

The *London Gazette* states that the Princess Royal, Princess Victoria, Princess Maud of Norway, Princess Helena Victoria, Princess Marie Louise, Lady Perrott, the Hon. Lady Cecil, and Susan Duchess of Somerset, have been appointed Dames Grand Cross of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

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