

Grenfell," which she had done. There were only 45 doctors in Newfoundland, and 4,000 miles of coastline. She assured those present that Mr. Amery (the Secretary of State for the Colonies) took a close personal interest in the question of the provision of medical and nursing help in this isolated island.

There were at present thirteen nurses at work in Newfoundland, and they were the pluckiest in the world. They would go by boat anywhere, at any time in any weather to the help of people who had never had a nurse before, and did the most marvellous work.

Newfoundland, said Lady Allardyce, is a wonderful field for nurses. They should be women of good education, and they must often work as a doctor as well as in the capacity for which they are trained, but they fill such a gap, and are so urgently wanted that more and more are needed, and all are loved.

The nurses are engaged by "Nonia" on a two years' contract at 900 dollars (about £180) a year. All travelling expenses are paid, and half salary from the day of embarkation till they reach their district, on which day the contract really starts.

Anyone who lived overseas had cause to thank those who were responsible for the splendid trained women who came out, and every nurse in training should hear of these opportunities of service which bless both her that gives and him that takes.

It was a real source of joy and pride that every good Nursing School overseas had been led or inspired by the Motherland.

We should, concluded Lady Allardyce, love to have some of you women in Newfoundland. If you were willing to turn your hand to anything, willing to rough it, you would be treated like queens. Some of those who come out to us marry, then we are thrilled, because we know then that we have "got them for keeps."

CANADA.

DR. HELEN MACMURCHY, representing the High Commissioner for Canada, said she was honoured by the request of Mr. Larkin to represent him at the Dinner of the British College of Nurses as he was prevented from attending by another important engagement. This was the more to be regretted as he was much interested in hospitals and nursing, and was at one time a Governor of the Toronto General Hospital, where he took great interest in everything that concerned the institution, as an instance of which he had the flower beds moved from a position where they could not be seen from the wards to one in sight of the patients.

There were 800 hospitals in Canada, a quarter of these were general hospitals, then there were contagious hospitals, private hospitals, and Red Cross or Outpost Hospitals. Also municipal and union Hospitals kept up on taxes. Things looked perfect at first, but did not always work out that way, and in Canada they were so accustomed to having hospitals handed out to them that they did not altogether appreciate having to pay for them.

Ontario.

MR. R. ELDON PERCIVAL, Assistant to the Agent General for Ontario in the British Isles, said he was most heartily with the British College of Nurses in its desire to elevate the status of the trained Nurse. Where the doctor spent minutes with the sick person the nurse spent long days and weary nights. So it was of the greatest importance that the nurse should not only be thoroughly competent but that she should also receive the legislative protection, as well as the honour and status to which her valuable and indispensable services entitled her.

In earlier times the term "Nurse" was a very wide and elastic one. To-day all that was changed. Never was the

need for the trained nurse more widely recognised. Everyone who was connected with the safeguarding of public health desired to raise the status of the Nursing Profession. Everyone desired that, when sick, they would get an honest-to-goodness trained nurse who knew her job.

In Ontario the registration of nurses was now compulsory, under the Registration of Nurses Act, 1922.

The Canadian Nurses Association (organised in 1908) was the Central Organisation of the Nursing Profession in Canada. It had a membership of 7,029 comprised in 50 federated associations, and there were nine provincial Nurses' Associations in affiliation with it, the Federated Nurses' Association of Ontario having 1,200 members.

There were three Universities in Ontario, the Toronto University, Toronto, the Western University, London, Ontario, and the Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, all of which were active, and keen to meet the needs of the community. In all of these departments had been established to take care of the training of Nurses. The Toronto Department was called the Department of Public Health Nursing, and last year had in attendance 30 full time woman students and 235 part time students.

Last year among the degrees granted by the Western University to students in their Department of Public Health and Bacteriology was that of Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and the Certificate of Hospital Administrator, Certificate of Instructor in Nursing, and Certificate of Public Health Nurse.

Mr. Percival then described the methods by which the Ontario Department of Health endeavours to create public interest in the question of health, and concluded a most informative and interesting speech by wishing success and prosperity to the British College of Nurses.

AUSTRALIA. Queensland.

THE HONOURABLE J. HUXHAM, Agent-General for Queensland, said he had been very much interested in the speeches to which he had listened. In Queensland he had started well by visiting the Children's Hospital in Brisbane, and further had married one of the nurses. It was wonderful what help had come to him from his wife in connection with his hospital and public health work.

When in the Home Department he had established, in 1916, four Baby Clinics in the Brisbane industrial centres, having received a vote of £1,000 from the Government, which was used for renting purposes, simple furnishings and nurses' salaries. These clinics were in operation for twelve months, and did a wonderful work; now they had been increased to fifteen, employing thirty nurses, at an annual expenditure of £9,325.

In addition the Government contributed, in 1926, £235,000 for the maintenance of Hospitals generally, other than those wholly maintained by the Government, the entire Government appropriation for 1926 being £600,000.

The speaker gave some very interesting details of the conditions of service, and salaries, of nurses in Queensland, and of the Queensland Hospitals Act of 1923.

Mr. Huxham concluded by sincerely wishing the British College of Nurses all that was good, and said he would like to see an interchange of Nurses between Great Britain and her Dominions. "My wishes," he said "are of the very best for you."

AFRICA. Southern Rhodesia.

SIR FRANCIS NEWTON, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., High Commissioner for Southern Rhodesia said that he was extremely glad to have an opportunity of testifying to the high appreciation in which the Nursing Profession was held in the tropical and sub-tropical countries in which he had served.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)