

FIXTURE FOR MARCH.

March 22nd.—Conference on Private Nursing, 39, Portland Place, London, W. 5.30 p.m.

Those desiring to attend the Lectures, or to be present on Obligation Day, or at the Conference on Private Nursing, are requested to notify the Secretary beforehand.

LECTURE ON NURSING HISTORY.

On Thursday, January 24th, Miss Isabel Macdonald, F.B.C.N., gave the last of a course of four lectures on the History of Nursing, at 39, Portland Place, W.

The lecture was attended by some 60 Fellows and Members, and was specially interesting, as it consisted mainly of the explanation of some very fine and most interesting lantern slides of historical places and persons, many of them reproductions of unique pictures in "A History of Nursing" by Miss M. A. Nutting, and Miss L. L. Dock, some lent by Miss Eden, and others collected, at considerable pains, by Miss Macdonald, whose illustrated lecture gave the greatest pleasure to an intelligent audience.

THE ISLA STEWART REMEMBRANCE BOOKCASE.

Miss Janet Stewart, only surviving sister of the late Miss Isla Stewart, writes:—

"I should like very much to add a book to those in the beautiful Bookcase which is such a lovely Memorial to Isla, which I read about in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which keeps me in touch with the world of the sister I loved and admired more than anyone else. How Isla would have loved to have heard all that was said on the 15th! Life has changed so much since she passed over, but it is good to think that she is so remembered."

Miss Janet Stewart has presented to the Bookcase in memory of her sister "The letters of Gertrude Bell" in 2 vols., in which she has written "In affectionate memory of Isla Stewart, presented by her sister Janet, 1927."

Also "London Town. Past and Present," by W. W. Hutchings, a beautiful illustrated book in 2 vols. which was given to the late Miss Isla Stewart by Mrs. Fenwick at Christmas, 1909, and which she greatly valued—as she did other works on London, which she loved.

Miss Vergette has sent the "Life and Letters of Sir James Paget," edited by "Stephen Paget, one of his sons."

"The Life of Sister Dora" is now out of print; a *clean* second-hand copy would be welcome as Mrs. Northwood wishes to present it to the Bookcase. If any of our readers possess this book, and are willing to sell it, please communicate with the Editor, *B. J. N.* Office, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

We learn from Miss Susan C. Francis, Secretary of the American Nurses' Association, that so far no biographies have been written of pioneers and notable American nurses. There are short sketches of many of such leaders in various publications. We are glad to hear that Miss Lillian Clayton, President of the American Nurses' Association, suggests that this matter might be taken up at the next

meeting of the Board of Directors of the Association which will be held at an early date. We feel sure there would be a ready sale throughout the international nursing world for lives of Linda Richards, Isabel Hampton Robb, Isabel McIsaac, Jane Delano and other notable pioneers of nursing in the United States. Those of us who enjoyed the friendship and help of these great hearted women in early "International" days will eagerly add copies of their biographies to those of Nurses of our own nationality, and shall hope to do so soon.

There will also be a niche at the British College of Nurses for a biography of Sister Agnes Karll—the greatest leader the German Nurses have ever had, or are likely to have. Who will compile it?

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.**TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.**

The Minister of Health has issued to Local Authorities (County Councils, County Borough Councils and Tuberculosis Joint Committees) an Analysis of the work done during the year 1926, under the schemes of Local Authorities for the Treatment of Tuberculosis, as shown in the Returns furnished in accordance with Memorandum 37/T under which the Chief Administrative Tuberculosis Officers of the Local Authorities were required to furnish the annual returns required to be furnished in respect of the year 1926.

These returns afford the first opportunity, since the initiation of the national scheme for the treatment of tuberculosis, of making a comprehensive survey of the work done under the scheme of each Local Authority, and it has, therefore, been considered desirable to publish an Analysis of these returns, in order that each Local Authority may be able to compare the work done in other areas with that carried out under their own scheme.

CANCER OF THE UTERUS.

Another important document issued from the Ministry of Health is the sixth of the series of Memoranda which has been issued from this Department during recent years on the subject of Cancer (Circular 826) to Local Authorities in England and Wales.

Concerning this Memorandum, Sir Arthur Robinson, First Secretary to the Ministry of Health, writes:—

One of the most important tasks which the Departmental Committee on Cancer (of which the Chairman is Sir George Newman, K.C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P.) has undertaken is that of providing a sound basis for the appraisal of the effect of modern methods of treatment in securing the survival of the patients who had suffered from the disease in the particular organs chosen for investigation. This has involved a statistical analysis of the records of all series of patients affected at such sites which had been published in the medical journals of the world, supplementing it, when practicable, by an examination of the records of representative hospitals at home, together with ascertainment of the ratio of patients surviving a given period to those who originally presented themselves for treatment. In this way it becomes possible not only to learn the absolute effect of present methods of treatment, but also to provide a standard of comparison with other methods of treatment which may become available through advances in medical knowledge in the future.

An exhaustive examination of this nature furnished such valuable information in regard to cancer of the breast (summarised in Circulars 496 and 716) that it was decided

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