

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

The short session of Parliament terminated on July 26th, and it will reassemble on October 29th. There are signs that debates in the House of Commons will be more lively in the future than they have been of late years. The breeze over the "dismissal" of Lord Lloyd, as High Commissioner for Egypt, reminded us of the days when the Irish contingent played "obstruction" in the Commons, and cast their "wigs on the green."

The short session has demonstrated the fact that the mentality of Miss Susan Lawrence is the force to be reckoned with in the ranks of women M.P.s.

On Thursday, July 18th, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship gave a Luncheon in honour of Women Members of Parliament at the Holborn Restaurant. The Chair was taken by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who it is to be much regretted was not returned to Parliament at the recent Election.

The Right Hon. Margaret Bondfield, M.P., the Viscountess Astor, M.P., Miss Megan Lloyd George, M.P., and Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P., spoke, with the exception of Miss Rathbone, for their respective Parties.

The gathering, to which flocked some 400 women, was a unique and interesting occasion, and six Fellows of the British College of Nurses attended, as they realised that the Nursing Profession needs to take an active part in public affairs now that the standard of Public Health has become a very live question in politics. The supposition that Nursing is still quite unimportant where the nation's health and sickness are concerned—that handy women, semi-trained village nurses, and V.A.D.s. are good enough for the sick poor—has got to be disproved all the time, and women M.P.s are surely the right persons to demand equality in nursing of the highest standard for all classes.

The opportunity of listening to the policy and sentiments of women M.P.s after luncheon, and gauging their personalities was exceedingly interesting, especially as they approached politics from so many diverse points of view. We came away, however, convinced that the sooner the profession selects first-rate Registered Nurses as representatives, and takes steps to promote their return to Parliament, the better it will be for all concerned. Let us look around.

Major Sir Richard Barnett, who retired from the House of Commons at the recent election, has presented to the House the "Wimbledon Cup" won by himself at the last Wimbledon meeting of the National Rifle Association, held just forty years ago. This is a most magnificent piece of plate in the form of a jug mounted on a stand, and will perhaps inspire others to add to the somewhat scanty collection of silver now in possession of the House, which, unlike the City Companies and other institutions of less ancient growth, has at present no worthy collection of plate to adorn the table on the occasion of a banquet to guests of distinction. Those of us who love antique silver congratulate Sir Richard Barnett on his generous example.

The Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Council of Women of Great Britain is this year to be held in Manchester from 14th to 18th October, and arrangements are well on the way. The preliminary Programme and Agenda have been issued. The Resolutions to be discussed include Contamination of Food, Affiliation Orders Overseas, Local Government Act, Information on Methods of Birth Control, Legal Aid for Poor Prisoners, Preservation of the Countryside, House Property Management and Slum Clearance.

Mrs. Keynes, J.P., of Cambridge, has been nominated and returned unopposed as President. We are glad to note the name of Miss S. A. Villiers, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., amongst those nominated as members to serve on the Executive Committee, representing the Affiliated Societies, and hope she will be elected. Professional Nursing, so indispensable in all departments of public health, has not yet received due recognition from the laity in women's organisations.

The World Jamboree of Boy Scouts at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead, has been a most heart-thrilling success. Fifty thousand Scouts from all over the world celebrated their majority. The King, Patron, sent an inspiring message and announced his pleasure in conferring a peerage on the Chief Scout, the founder of the movement, Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Bt., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.B.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales spent twenty-four hours in camp and after delivering the King's message, stirred "his comrades" in the rally ground to wild enthusiasm by his own characteristic speech, in which he spurred them on to good will in place of suspicion and selfish antagonism.

Not only Boy Scouts but nurses might well take to heart the following advice given by the Prince. "The British way," said the Prince, "of expressing the idea is to say 'Scouting breeds true sportsmanship.' But sportsmanship is not an easy word to define. It means straight dealing and playing the game. It means self-reliance, and at the same time team work, playing for your side and not for yourself, winning without swank, losing without bad temper. It also means thoughtfulness and making allowances for others. It is an idea of loyalty and service. The one thing it hates like poison is selfishness."

General Dawes, the American Ambassador, in a message to the American scouts said: "The spirit of comradeship is the world's best safeguard for peace."

Mr. Mortimer Schiff's gift of £10,000 to Great Britain for the furtherance of international friendship, and £5,000 from Mr. T. W. Whitehead, of Dunblane, for the association, should inspire other far-sighted people to speed this fine movement.

Someone remarked at the Nurses' International at Montreal:—

"The growth of the International Council of Nurses and the Boy Scouts' movement will soon render unnecessary the League of Nations."

DEATH OF DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT.

Dame Millicent Fawcett, a great and illustrious woman died on Monday, August 5th, full of years, her splendid services to the nation, and for the political emancipation of women, recognised throughout the world.

The funeral was held at Golders Green Crematorium on August 8th, and an announcement will be made later of a memorial service to be held in the autumn, at which thousands of her countrywomen will wish to be present to express their humble duty, and in recognition of her undying fame.

COMING EVENTS.

September 21st.—The British College of Nurses. Council Meeting. 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2 p.m.

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