

fee for the course is 10s. 6d. for non-transferable tickets, or 15s. for transferable tickets, which must be obtained in advance from the Hon. Lecture Secretary, at the Clinic. Single tickets, 3s. 6d., as far as accommodation permits.

We all know of the activities of the Chief Scout, but not so of our Chief Rambler, Miss C. Liddiatt, F.B.C.N., who has organised with much success the most enjoyable motor rambles for the Royal British Nurses Association.

Miss I. Macdonald as Chair of the Social Section of the British College of Nurses, together with Miss Liddiatt, has organised a ramble to East Wellow to pay homage to the grave of Miss Florence Nightingale. The route is through lovely country, the New Forest, Winchester and Romsey, so if the day is fine the "ramblers," starting at 9 a.m. from 39, Portland Place, and calling at 194, Queen's Gate, should enjoy a very delightful drive—and as so few Nurses comparatively have visited the sacred spot where all that is mortal of Florence Nightingale rests under the Nightingale family tomb in East Wellow Churchyard, this pilgrimage is very appropriate for those who revere her memory. Permission has been given to drive under the windows of Embley Park and see the lovely gardens.

The Central Committee of Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association states in its annual report just to hand that the greatest trouble the Association has had this year has been the lack of Nursing Sisters. For the last few years the question has been how to provide necessary funds for passages for nurses from home. The arrangements sanctioned in 1927 came into force from the beginning of 1928 and have proved satisfactory. The number of Nursing Sisters required was estimated at 110, and as the five years' contract scheme is found to be the most suitable, it means that each year twenty-two nurses must be provided. The cash required for passage, etc., of each new Nursing Sister is roughly £80, and consequently at least £1,760 is required annually for passages from home. The Association is most grateful to Lady Minto, who has again this year been trying to raise endowment funds to provide for these passages and to make the Home Branch of this Association self-supporting, details of which can be seen in the Home Committee's report.

The improved financial condition of the Association in India has enabled it to send home £1,960 for the passages of Nursing Sisters urgently required to bring the cadre up to strength. Unfortunately only nineteen Sisters were recruited and sent out during the year, and as for various reasons thirty-four have left during that period, most of the branches have been under strength and have had to refuse cases. This is most regrettable, but it is hoped that members will not again have cause for complaint.

Miss Gertrude Beckett, Chief Lady Superintendent, who is also a member of the Executive Committee in India, writes in her report:—"The year under review has been very busy for all the Branches, and despite our depleted staff at the latter end of the year, we have been able to show record figures for the number of cases

nursed by the staff, the amount of subscriptions received, and the amount received in fees. The raising of the fees at the beginning of the year must be taken into consideration, but even without this increase the amount received in fees exceeds any previous record. Owing to the temporary shortage of staff the Sisters have had an unusually busy time. We hope that the Home Committee's difficulty in finding suitable candidates for the Service is only a temporary one.

"The health of the Staff has not been good on the whole, and during the year it has been found necessary to send five Sisters home on medical certificate before the completion of their contract.

"The custom, started in January, 1928, of giving the Sisters on the private staff a bonus on their daily work, has worked well and given general satisfaction."

Miss Doris Park, R.N., certified midwife, in a letter published in the *Quarterly Bulletin* of the Frontier Nursing Service, Kentucky, writes:—

"We had a big flood Friday and Saturday night—the biggest I've ever seen here. It smashed everything along the banks of the river on each side, including the swinging footbridge at Hyden. It started at noon on Friday. The river was so low you could almost have waded across the ford, but by six o'clock it was rising rapidly. At nine that night a man came for me from Wolf Creek. He had to swim down the road from the mouth of Camp Creek part way, and we couldn't get back that way at all; so we went up Hurricane Creek and across a new trail to Wolf—the most terrible trail I have been over and in the worst storm.

"Needless to say, the baby was born when we arrived, but as the father had come all that way for me I couldn't but go back with him—but it was the worst trip I had. We even had to swim Coon Creek four times, and he waded up to his neck nine times in all.

"Well, I got back next day. I had to leave the horse on Camp Creek, and walk back beyond the school and down to the mouth, where I had lunch. It was a sight to see. The river was up to the B.'s front gate—hardly a treetop in sight, and all the bottom fields a sheet of water. Well, after lunch, I walked up high on the mountain, and waded waist deep across Hurricane with Tom H. and Jim M. carrying the saddle bags and all of us holding hands.

"I got home at 2.30 p.m., and had just got bathed and was falling off to sleep, when Marion came up and said if I would go across the river to the M.'s, one of the men would take me over. It certainly wanted the movie camera to finish that picture. I tell you it was exciting. To start with, they had to take the boat out of the bushes, and Lewis and Jayhugh and Tom and Jim carried it to a good starting-place, and Jim took me over. The moon was high by this time. Five men were on the other side on a raft ready to catch the rope. But the river was so swift the boat skimmed past like a piece of driftwood. But Jim is a corker of a boatman and landed us safely away below the ford right into the M.'s bottom field, arriving in time (8 p.m.). I got an eleven pound boy at 2 a.m. Sunday morning. So everyone is very happy."

It will be appreciated that nurses with the pioneer spirit are needed for work of this type.

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