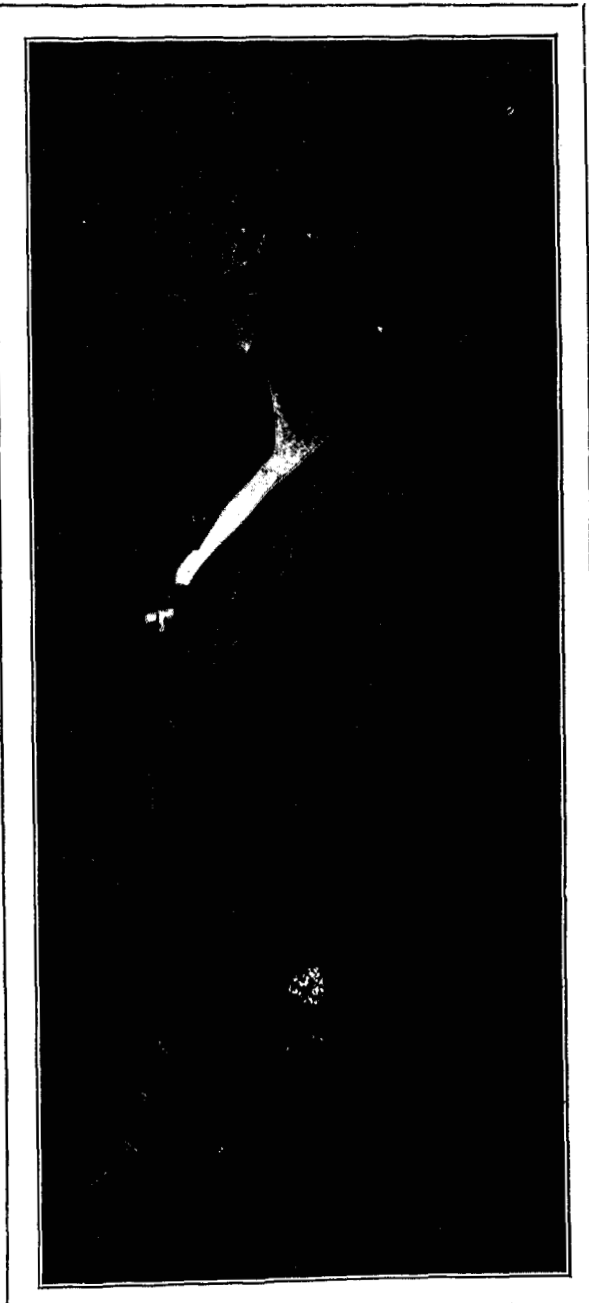


for collecting fees, you would very soon have the British Medical Association contending that such a condition of affairs would be grossly unfair to other sections of the Medical Profession and entirely unprofessional, too; but, of course, no medical man would be likely to agree to any such innovation. There is nothing so dominant at the present time as economics, and until the great bulk of the Private Nurses are free, in this respect, from their Schools, private practice is not going to take the important status which is its due. With regard to the fees charged by the Hospitals, it is admitted those are acting most unfairly towards the Private Nurses where they charge a smaller fee than that which is more or less universally recognised now as just, namely four guineas per week. Three times within the last three weeks I have had it brought to my attention how Nurses, charging this fee, have been replaced by Nurses from a certain large Hospital in London because it only charges three guineas per week. Such instances are sufficient to indicate the danger of such undercutting, and the best we can say of the Private Nurses who lend themselves to it is that they do not understand their own position, otherwise, I am sure that they would not allow themselves to be used to maintain such methods of competition with their colleagues in order to benefit an Institution which has a huge income from a charitable public." Miss Macdonald referred to large private wards or "homes" being opened in the Hospitals, combines also which were being formed to promote various large nursing homes run on purely commercial lines, and to other private institutions which were business enterprises administered by people who have never been inside a hospital; if Private Nurses, it was stated, did not combine and take energetic action, there was every probability that private rings in practice, as it has existed hitherto, would be crushed out of existence altogether.

Other points were touched upon which we have not space to refer to here, and afterwards various members of the audience spoke and put forward ideas as to the lines on which the league should take action. The view was very strongly expressed that the Private Nurses should get busy in trying to bring in as many Members to the League as possible. One Nurse stressed the point that the Nurses might succeed in getting very able generalship in

the matter of forming a strong and intelligent committee, but unless such generalship has a large body of nurses behind it, little indeed could be achieved. Leaders could not fight without an army. Forms of Membership were available, and it was stated that others could be obtained on application by post to the Honorary Secretary, League of Private Nurses, 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.



MISS B. G. ALEXANDER, R.R.C.,
President South African Trained Nurses Association.

THE FEVER NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A Social Meeting.

A social meeting of the Fever Nurses' Association took place on Wednesday, April 2nd, at the Headquarters of the Royal British Nurses' Association. Miss Drakard gave a very interesting account of the meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Montreal. She showed some fine slides which had been lent by Mrs. Rowan, Matron of Ladywell Sanatorium. The lecture was well attended, and after it was over, the members of the Association went to the drawing-room to tea. This was a very pleasant part of the gathering, for it gave opportunity for many friends to meet and discuss old times.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A large amount of important and interesting business was transacted at the biennial meeting of the South African Trained Nurses' Association held in East London in January last with Mrs. Bennie, President, in the chair. We have only space to refer to the retirement of Mrs. Bennie from the chair, and the election of Miss B. G. Alexander the popular Hon. Secretary, to this position. Both ladies are members of the South African Medical Council as the Nurses' elected Representatives and both have taken an interest in the work of the International Council of Nurses. Miss Alexander attended the Helsingfors Congress in 1925 and Mrs. Bennie that in Montreal in 1929.

THE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF CHINA.

Report of the Biennial Conference.

The conference of the Nurses' Association of China, held in Shanghai from February 1st to 8th, was unique in two respects first: it marked the twenty-first anniversary of the founding of the Association; secondly, it was held in conjunction with the National Medical Association at their invitation.

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