

of our benevolent schemes and the by-product so produced is a rapidly-growing list of Annuities for sick and aged Nurses. Others have interested themselves in adding to the beauty and homelikeness of our Club, and some have devoted time and effort to other pieces of work. But what we badly need is a group of Nurses who will get together and earnestly study the affairs of our profession in so far as they extend into the body politic or affect the well-being of those employed in the different branches of nursing. Since the passage of the Nurses' Registration Acts a far greater amount of attention has been given to nursing education than ever before. But progress should not end there. The Acts gave to nursing the status of a profession, and it is up to us, therefore, to see that unprofessional conditions cease to exist any longer within the profession. But the professional soul has not yet taken possession of the nursing profession; this is evident from many points of view, but from none more than from the fact that the nurses still seek to possess their minds in tranquillity while the burden of protecting the rights and promoting the progress of their profession is laid on the shoulders of the few.

Just at present we see many dangers, many hindrances to progress, which have already been indicated in the pages of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. Once, in connection with the State Registration movement, a remark was heard about "striking when the iron was hot," which might then have been translated as coming in when the fighting was done. Better far to follow Cromwell's advice and make the iron hot by striking. And if we don't there are plenty of hurdles before us. Particularly is this so in the case of the private nurses who are silently allowing their branch of the profession to be swallowed up by the training schools, or exploited by people with no professional qualifications of any value. The private nurses are offered a mouthpiece through the new League of Private Nurses, but how many are doing work to get new Members for that League in order to help it to help themselves? There are also many economic matters calling for consideration, matters connected with the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Training and Supply of Midwives and a dozen other questions which the strong support of those who have minds big enough to expand beyond their own particular niches might help to put right. To bring one's brain and energy thus to work in organising a profession on professional lines is to do really productive work, because it is the kind of work that, sooner or later, works on by itself at last. Suppose that in the coming months more of us make up our minds to take a part in organisation and to getting about with a duster to rub away a great deal of the ignorance that clings about the minds of the nurses regarding their own affairs. It would be good occupation for our debating section to discuss regularly questions relating to organisation, and if a reasonable number of nurses will undertake to meet and discuss thoroughly matters of moment to their profession, we shall have pleasure in setting aside some afternoons or evenings either for Round Table Conferences or for larger meetings. Without such discussions it is very difficult to get a true understanding regarding conditions which call for reform. We often enough hear the wish expressed that certain injustices might cease to exist. They won't until nurses stop putting their wishbone where their backbone should be, and cease to remain in tranquil ignorance and inactivity rather than evolving by-products that will sow the seeds of justice, self-determination and healthy development in their profession.

#### GIFTS TO THE CLUB.

Mrs. Crassweller, flowers; Mrs. Temple, fruit and sweets; Miss B. Birse, flowers; Miss I. Macdonald, flowers; Miss I. Robertson, flowers; Miss B. Treasure, flowers.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS FROM LADY RICE-OXLEY FOR HELP ON REMEMBRANCE DAY.

We received the following letter from Lady Rice-Oxley acknowledging the help which the Nurses gave to the British Legion on Remembrance Day.

"Dear Miss Macdonald,

We are deeply indebted to you all and please accept our most sincere thanks for all the kind help you and the others gave.

I am pleased to tell you that the total collection so far comes to £4,620 9s. 8d., but there is still some money to come in. In spite of the rain, the street collection was better than last year's.

With many warm thanks to you all,

Yours gratefully,

(Signed) EVA A. RICE-OXLEY."

As usual we asked our Members to help us to sell poppies on Remembrance Day in the Royal Borough of Kensington, and several Members of the Registered Nurses' Association very kindly volunteered to come across and help their colleagues here.

The following are the amounts collected:—Miss Treasure, £29 8s. 11d.; Miss Turner, £18 7s. 8d.; Miss Aaronson, £11 19s. 8d.; Miss Schofield, £8 19s. 2d.; Miss Taylor, £8 12s. 10d.; Miss Cameron, £4 6s. 11d.; Miss McGushin, £6 4s. 4d.; Miss Bellamy, £5 4s. 6d.; Miss Quick, £4 0s. 6d.; Miss Taylor, £3 19s. 5d.; Miss Thorburn, £3 19s. 2d.; Miss Macdonald, £3 14s. 9d.; Miss West, £3 11s. 1d.; Miss Hewson, £3 1s. 3d.; Miss Armstrong, £3 0s. 4d.; Miss Templeway, £2 12s. 11d.; Miss Liddiatt, £2 5s. 7d.; Miss Cox-Sinclair, £2 1s. 5d.; Miss Enroth, £1 15s. 6d.; Miss Henretty, £1 6s. 5d.; Miss Pocock, £1 6s. 3d.

#### FIXTURES.

THE FOLLOWING FIXTURES HAVE BEEN ARRANGED.

On Thursday, February 20th, "The Ramblers" will visit the Royal Observatory at Greenwich. This fixture has been arranged conjointly with the British College of Nurses and we hear that quite a number of Nurses would like to take advantage of it. Those who wish to do so should write at once to Miss Macdonald, 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7., intimating their intention to join the Ramble, as the names of those who will be in the party have to be sent to the Secretary of the Royal Observatory some days prior to our visit. We trust that this matter will receive attention. We hope that, after going over the Royal Observatory, we may have time to see something of the old Royal Palace at Greenwich. Those who have read Sir Robert Ball's entrancing "Story of the Heavens" will look forward with intense interest to this particular Ramble, and to learning, in a practical way, something of the magnificent achievements which have been made in the pursuit of that most fascinating of all sciences, astronomy.

On Saturday, March 1st, at 8 p.m., there will be a Dramatic Entertainment in aid of the House Beautiful Fund; Miss E. A. Jones, who is organising it, has got an accomplished group of artistes together and we look forward to a delightful and varied evening's performance.

On Friday, March 7th, at 3 p.m., the League of Private Nurses will hold its Conference at 194, Queen's Gate.

On Wednesday, March 12th, from 4 to 6 p.m., Miss Liddiatt will be "At Home" to Members and Friends of the Association. We are sure that many will wish to take advantage of her generous hospitality.

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

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