

working Nurses feel in this matter. I live at a Nurses' Club, where I meet large numbers of them, and their feeling appears to be one of the keenest disappointment. "What is the good of the State Register if thieves are to remain upon it?" They feel that their status and prestige as members of an honourable profession are being injured, and that they can no longer look to the State Register to support those ethical standards which they have always been taught to regard as essential in a nurse. I would like to hear the General Nursing Council give some sort of pronouncement as to what they do consider gives sufficient cause for the removal of a name from the Register if *theft* is not to be regarded as giving sufficient cause for such removal. Is the demand for the observance of the most ordinary ethical standards to stop short once a nurse's name is on the State Register? The G.N.C. is practically standing back in the pre-Nightingale times in this matter—times when doctors stated that they had to select from a considerable number of women those who were the most sober and of the best character, to take charge of their patients. Furthermore, the matter of which we complain is one having a serious effect upon the nurses' economic position. The higher the moral, as well as the educational standards, of the members of the profession are proved to be, the stronger is the position of the profession to demand a due reward for services rendered; in private nursing practice, the character of a nurse is of the highest value from the point of view of the co-operation to which she applies to find her work, and this is true of the profession at large in its relation to the community. Perhaps no one is more open to suffer from the laxity of the General Nursing Council in this matter than the nurse engaged in private practice. Frequently the fact that she is a State Registered Nurse is the only, or the best, evidence that she can produce, at short notice, to show that she is a fit person to enter this home or that and to have complete charge of the sick at times of great crises in their lives and in the lives of their families. Furthermore, often she is the only person awake in houses where treasures of all sorts lie spread around; if the Register is to include persons proved guilty of moral offences of this kind, what is her position to be? I put it that the State Register is not going to strengthen it in such circumstances. I hope that medical men will use their influence to protect the nurses and to support us in our effort to perpetuate the maintenance of moral standards such as they and the public have surely the right to demand of our profession.

The Members of the Medical Parliamentary Committee asked a number of questions on various points, and invited Mrs. Fenwick to reply which she did. The Committee agreed to consider the reports submitted.

The President stated that she considered that publicity was the most useful factor in the protection of the profession from association with criminals on the State Register, and the information placed before the Medical Parliamentary Committee would, she felt sure, be of ultimate value, as several Members had already expressed entire sympathy with the point of view of the Deputation.

THE REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., presented the Report of the Education Committee, at which Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., was present by invitation.

The Report dealt with proposed Correspondence Classes and Elocution Classes, and it was decided to insert a second notice of the Correspondence Classes in the next issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING before making final arrangements.

Lectures in Advanced Psychology.

Miss Macaulay placed before the Committee a suggested Course of Lectures by Dr. Forsythe to qualify for the advanced Course on Psychology for the Diploma of Nursing, London University.

It was suggested that the Lectures be thrown open to all Nurses, and those wishing to enter for the Diploma of Nursing would be prepared for it.

It was proposed to recommend to the Council to take into consideration this Course on Advanced Psychology, and to invite Dr. Forsythe to be the Lecturer, and to commence the Lectures as soon as possible if there was sufficient demand.

Sister Tutors' Section.

By request it was agreed to recommend to the Council that the Sister Tutors be invited to form a section.

The Report was adopted.

REPORT OF THE HISTORY OF NURSING COMMITTEE.

Miss A. M. Bushby, chairman of the History of Nursing Committee, reported activities during the past month. She had visited the sister of the late Sister Katherine Monk of King's College Hospital, and from her received photographs and some very interesting mementoes. She had also visited Miss Catherine J. Wood, now nearly ninety, and had been given photographs, and much interesting information of her long nursing career—begun in 1863.

A very lovely book had been acquired for £10 10s., the first edition of "Flora's Feast. A Masque of Flowers. Penned and pictured by Walter Crane. 1889." On the flyleaf of this exquisite book is the following inscription in the handwriting of Florence Nightingale:

"Our Fathers Floral Feast.

"If God do clothe the flowers of the field."

Offered to—

dear Mrs. Wardroper,

from her always loving old friend,

Florence Nightingale,

April, 1890.

This fine work contains forty exquisite coloured pictures of "human" flowers, symbolical of the seasons, with appropriate verse. The first a lovely Greek figure in transparent robes of blue.

The sullen winter nearly spent,

Queen Flora to her garden went—

To call the flowers from their long sleep,

The year's glad festivals to keep.

The awakening of the flower children, the Snowdrops,—"the little Crocus reaches up to catch the sunbeam in his cup;"—and so on until the last page: "God doth the floral pageant close. With one last flower, a Christmas rose."

At the close of Miss Bushby's report the President reminded the Council how much the College owed to her generous gifts to the History Committee, and felt sure others would wish to contribute to acquire this gem.

Miss Cochrane said she had been wondering what she would do with a certain sum of money coming to her on the issue of her handbook on "Nursing." She would very much like to present "Flora's Feast," containing the Nightingale inscription, to the College.

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