

Strong, F.B.C.N., late Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, had consented to take the chair.

SOCIAL SCHEMES—LONDON WEEK.

Arrangements for "London Week" were considered, and it was recommended that a notice be inserted in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING inviting applications from Fellows and Members to spend a week in London after the New Year at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, as the guests of the Council—who might not otherwise be able to afford the holiday. The guests to be limited to four. The arrangements to be left in the hands of Miss Macdonald.

The Report was adopted.

The President read the following Note prepared for the Council by Miss Isabel Macdonald:—

NOTE BY MISS ISABEL MACDONALD.

PSYCHOLOGY GROUP.

It has been decided to form a Group for the study of psychology, and we shall be glad if Fellows and Members who are interested in this subject and would like to join the Group will send in their names to the Secretary of the College at an early date. It was first suggested, in connection with the proposed Group, that it should hold its meetings each week in order to undertake an intensive and detailed study of the subject. Experience has shown, however, that there are only a limited number of nurses who can rely upon having the same evening free each week and, even if they can, it is not always possible to set it aside for one definite purpose. It has been decided therefore, to adopt more or less the following procedure:—For each meeting of the Group some member will undertake to read a paper on a special psychological subject, chosen by herself and preferably, at first, one that is likely to be generally interesting; this paper will take, roughly, half-an-hour to read. At least three other Group members will be asked to bring papers which will each take from three to five minutes, and the last quarter of an hour will be given up to discussion. The proceedings will be carefully recorded and kept in the archives of the Group. Thereby a greater sense of responsibility will be felt by the members to contribute, as far as possible, what is really of value; also such papers and other records will serve, at some future time, to show whether the work being done indicates advancement. The Group will compile a list of books for purposes of study by its members or for recommendation to fellows and members, who are interested in the subject but cannot attend the London Group meetings. It is hoped that those who join will undertake to study the books recommended, each Group member, as far as possible, taking a different one from the others, for a given period, and, when occasion arises, bringing points forward for discussion that appear to be difficult, controversial or of special interest.

It is suggested that instead of appointing a Chairman or Hon. Secretary there shall be a Group Leader, whose duty it will be to organise the meetings, to undertake any special work that may arise in connection with them and, generally, to do what is possible, with the help of the Group members, to advance the progress and usefulness of this new section of activity. Occasionally we may ask the Council to organise a public lecture by some eminent authority, but the idea is rather that we struggle through to knowledge as far as possible ourselves; for knowledge found in this way is usually that which has the greatest influence and persistence in life. There is also the suggestion that the Group should become responsible for reviewing books on Psychology for the BRITISH JOURNAL

OF NURSING, the official organ of the College, from time to time.

The subject of Psychology is a fascinating one for the simple reason that it has no end; in effect it may, so far as we are able to prove, be said to have had no beginning. Over the entrances to the Temples of ancient Greece there stood the words "Oh, Man, know Thou Thyself"; in temples older even than the Greek there were mirrors that symbolised the same exhortation and now, in a more materialistic yet not less direct form, the same exhortation exists in our time in the study of psychology as it is found in the different phases of the world's activity. The fascination of this study lies also in the fact that it bears a close relation to both philosophy and ethics.

We hope that the group will not only produce a piece of creative work from out the College in the shape of articles and lectures that emanate from it or are preserved in its archives, but that it will also be the means of helping to lead the nurses to a better understanding of the human mind and personality in their myriad aspects and moods. Especially do we hope to make this piece of work one of value in our dealings with patients so that we may help towards avoiding those misunderstandings that arise through the distortions that facts assume sometimes in minds affected by physical ill-health or from a lack of ability on the part of the nurse to put herself in another's place and to see a given situation from his particular psychology, even when declining to adopt his point of view.

If those members who are prepared to come forward and form such a Group will kindly communicate with the Secretary, British College of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, then we can have a preliminary meeting to discuss arrangements and to fix the date of the first ordinary meeting.

The Council unanimously approved of Miss Macdonald's recommendations for the organisation of a Psychology Group, and desired its thanks to be conveyed to her for the able manner in which she had presented them.

REPORT OF THE HISTORY OF NURSING SECTION.

Miss A. M. Bushby, Chairman of the History of Nursing Committee, said: Since my last report to the Council on July 25th, the College has received and obtained for the History Section many valuable additions.

Miss Alice Garstang has presented a Coloured Print of Mrs. Elizabeth Fry's portrait by George Richmond. "Notes on Nursing," by Florence Nightingale, second edition. "Organisation of Nursing in Large Towns," with an introduction and Notes by Florence Nightingale. "Florence Nightingale, O.M.," by one who knew her.

Bought by the College.—"Notes on Nursing," by Florence Nightingale. *First edition.* Perhaps it would interest the Council to know that there are seven editions of this book. The British College has two first editions and several second editions: over 100,000 copies are said to have been sold.

Given by Miss Brodie and the Misses Haswell.—Eleven Old Prints of Hospitals.

Bought by the College.—Four prints of Leper Hospitals; two Prints Foundling Hospital and the Old Newcastle Infirmary.

Miss Jessie Holmes.—"An American Transport in the Crimean War." By Capt. John Cadman.

Miss A. M. Bushby.—"Autobiography, Elizabeth Davis, a Balaclava Nurse," edited by Jane Williams, Vols. I, II. This is the author's own copy with letters and notes.

Bought by the College.—"Florence Nightingale." By Annie Matheson.

Miss A. M. Bushby.—"St. James' Magazine," Vol. I, April to July, 1861. "What Florence Nightingale has Done and is Doing."

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