

THE MENTAL AFTER CARE ASSOCIATION.

The Mental After Care Association held its annual meeting on Tuesday, October 25th, at the Springfield Mental Hospital, Upper Tooting. The President of the Association (Lord Wakefield) was in the chair.

The speakers were the Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster on "The Religious Aspect of Mental After Care." He emphasised the need for this work to have a spiritual basis.

Miss Ruth Darwin (member of the Board of Control), spoke on "Mental After Care in America," and gave some illuminating details of the work there. The continuity of their methods of care by *the same person* from the observation clinic and in the hospital itself to the day of discharge (if that happily comes about), and afterwards in the home of the patient, appeared to be a very satisfactory and thorough plan. She very sympathetically drew attention to the added distress of mind in the new patient by the anxieties, real and imaginary, about the home life left behind, and how much the after care visitor could do in visiting the home and re-assuring the patient as to the children, etc.

The Chairman of the L.C.C. Mental Hospitals (Mr. E. J. Sainsbury), on "Mental After Care in London," spoke in the highest terms of the work of the Mental After Care Association, and said they had become so used to its valuable help that it would be now difficult to carry on without it. He traced its small beginning to its present day far-reaching influence. He hoped that the work would always be a voluntary one, and that it would never be taken over officially.

The Chairman of the Springfield Mental Hospital (Mr. C. L. de Salis) endorsed these views warmly.

The company were entertained to a delightful tea in the new nurses' home and were most hospitably made welcome by the Matron (Miss Cummins) and her staff.

Afterwards the charming and up-to-date Nurses' Home, in its colour scheme of blue and brown, was thrown open for inspection, and very attractive it all was. The new Hospital (sick bay) was also on view, the most notable features of which are the malaria wards for the treatment of G.P.I patients. The windows and doors are covered with mosquito netting to prevent any spread of infection to other patients by insects; the poison cupboards, with their efficient appointments, are brilliantly lit automatically on inserting the key, so that from that point of view no mistake is excusable.

The newest arrangement with waterproof stretchers for continuous baths for restless patients and the most modern of padded rooms, with hair padding, were among the very interesting and instructive things shown to the visitors, some of whom appeared to belong to the nursing profession, judging by their keen appreciation. H. H.

WEDDING BELLS.

On October 28th, Miss Nora G. Robins, a member of the Registered Nurses' Association, was married to Mr. Edward Romans at St. Mary's Parish Church, Staines, and will for the future live in Hampshire. The last care nursed by Miss Robins, with whom she had been for three and a half years, presented her with a car (Austin 12), and with some nice antique furniture—a rug chest, an antique table and silver. Her colleagues will wish her happiness in the future to enjoy these delightful gifts.

NIGHTINGALEIANA.

Punch, March 1st, 1856.

Whilst Government was squandering our resources, and the lives of our men in the Crimea, Miss Nightingale was nursing them.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Seventieth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, October 22nd, 1932.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and there were present: Miss A. M. Bushby, *Vice-President*; Miss E. Brodie, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss N. Farrant, Miss G. Le Geyt, Miss D. K. Graham, Miss Isabel Macdonald, *Fellows*; and Miss H. G. Ballard and Miss E. J. Haswell, *Members*.

Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

DEATH OF MISS DOROTHY A. SNELL.

The President reported with sincere sorrow the death on Thursday, October 20th, of a dear colleague and Fellow of the College, Miss Dorothy Snell, the Matron of the Scuola Convitto Regina Elena, at Rome—who had endured a year's intense suffering with sweet patience and courage. Her wonderful organisation of the Nursing School attached to the Policlinico Hospital, at Rome, was an example to Italy of what such a school, founded as it was on the best British traditions, could be. The visit to the Scuola Convitto of seven members of the British College of Nurses in 1928, where they were so generously entertained, was still fresh in their memories, and all who knew Miss Snell would deeply deplore her loss as a personal friend, and as a great nursing pioneer in Italy, beloved by its Queen Elena and all who knew her.

Mrs. Fenwick proposed that an expression of their sorrow should be sent to the members of the Scuola Convitto Regina Elena, which was done in the following terms:

"That the Council of the British College of Nurses learns with sincere grief of the death of their dear colleague, Dorothy Annie Snell, Matron of the Scuola Convitto 'Regina Elena,' Policlinico Hospital, Rome, on Thursday, October 20th, and desire to express their sympathy with every member of the Nursing Staff of that Institution in the irreparable loss sustained by the death of their revered Matron."

The Council passed the resolution with an uprising vote. It was also agreed to have a wreath procured in Rome and placed on Miss Snell's grave suitably inscribed.

BUSINESS ARISING.

A reply was reported, dated October 3rd, from the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, in answer to a communication addressed to it from the College, dated June 28th, enclosing a copy of a Resolution, urging the General Nursing Council to convene a Conference with persons responsible for the training and education of nurses to consider the definition of "the prescribed training" as provided for in the Statutory Rules of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919.

The General Nursing Council having considered the resolution, requests the College to specify what the definite subject matter would be for consideration if such a Conference were convened.

After consideration, the Council instructed the Secretary to reply in the following sense: That as three months had elapsed since the Resolution was forwarded to the General Nursing Council, and before a reply had been received from it, and taking into consideration that the Election of a new Council was imminent, the British College of Nurses would be pleased to give the information required if requested to do so by the General Nursing Council to take office in January, 1933.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Letters were notified from Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., accepting nomination as Vice-President

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