

And here a curious thing happened.

Minnie's intimates will perhaps remember that although she dearly loved music and thoroughly appreciated good performers she had absolutely no ear for executive purposes.

In school she was banished from the singing class, and at home singing, which she greatly enjoyed, her insistence on joining in was a trial to her relations.

During the last years of her life, strangely enough, some ancestral instinct developed and Lina was surprised one evening by hearing Minnie join in a Russian lament softly but with absolute perfection, finishing the song by herself, when her astonished sister exclaimed: "Why Minnie, you are singing very well!"

But lifelong doubt of her capacity could not be quickly effaced. "I know I can't sing a bit," she said regretfully, "but it is the one thing I have always longed to do."

Making Caldera her headquarters Minnie made many excursions into other districts, enjoying everywhere the justly famed hospitality of the West Coast.

Vissa del Nar and Santiago pleased her very much and she greatly enjoyed staying at an Hacienda in Vallenar, owned by English friends and exhibiting the interesting and unusual feature of a Chinchilla farm among the rocks.

Minnie saw the industrial and intellectual life of Chili at the source and her active mind found topics of interest in all.

Always bridge was a great amusement in the quiet evenings devoted to games but she disapproved of innovations in the rules. With our neighbours and friends the Directors of the American Smelting Co., we would spend many pleasant evenings playing bridge in a pleasant brilliantly electric-lighted sitting-room, surrounded by good engravings and handsome furniture, keenly conscious as we sat down to our amusement of desolate wastes to the north, east and south and a boundless ocean moaning in the west.

(To be concluded.)

LINA MOLLETT.

Miss Lina Mollett, who, with true affection has drawn the veil from the last years of the life of the sister she so greatly loved, has rendered great service to Miss Wilhelmina Mollett's colleagues, not only in Great Britain, but around the world, for through the International Council of Nurses she was known to nurses in many countries, and her outstanding and attractive personality and brilliant gifts always commanded respect, and in many instances affection. The story of her Autumn Years will therefore be eagerly read.

Miss Lina Mollett is no new contributor to this Journal. We have before us a copy of the volume of *The Nursing Record*, as it then was, for 1888 (the first) in which she describes the establishment of a hospital in Hanover under the care of a Lutheran Sisterhood.

From 1888 onwards, that is to say for a period of over forty years, Miss Lina Mollett has from time to time contributed to this Journal, and her articles have always been read with eager interest. She is a distinguished educationist with rare literary talents, and profound knowledge, high standards and personal charm.

A great service done to the profession of nursing by Miss Mollett was in bringing to the notice of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick some pamphlets in German concerning the Deaconess Institution at Kaiserswerth, which, when translated, proved the originator and inspirer of the Deaconess movement to be Friederike Fliedner, the Pastor's wife, not the Pastor himself, although she had his constant sympathy and support.

When the International Council of Nurses met at Cologne in 1912, members of the Congress made a pilgrimage to Kaiserswerth, when a wreath was placed in its name on the grave of this great and lovable woman.

FEDERATION OF TRADE UNION NURSES.

PLANS FOR A NEW FEDERATION.

As reported in *The Mental Hospital Workers Journal* a conference of representatives of trade unions interested in the organisation of nurses was held at Transport House, the headquarters of the Trades Union Congress General Council in London, on December 15th, 1931, when consideration was given to the question of the best method of extending trade union organisation among nurses.

The Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union was represented by the President (Mr. C. Bartlett) and the General and Assistant Secretaries.

After considerable discussion it was agreed that the formation of a *Federation of Nurses* was probably the best method of approach to the problem of providing effective trade union organisation for nurses.

The Trades Union Congress General Council has approved this plan on condition that—

There should be a uniform rate of contribution.

The Federation should draft a programme relating to salaries and conditions, for adoption by the various organisations.

The Federations should have power to allocate spheres of influence among the various unions.

If these recommendations are accepted by the unions concerned, the General Council will give all possible assistance to form the Federation and give it a successful start.

The executives of the various unions are now being asked to give consideration to the formation of a Preliminary Council which will draw up a detailed constitution for consideration.

It was proposed by the conference that the Federation, if formed, should issue contribution cards in its own name, but that each union concerned should be responsible for administration in respect of its own members.

The scheme is apparently intended to apply not only to mental hospital nurses but to all nurses, and should be carefully watched.

HÆMOCHROMATOSIS.

The value of pathological examinations was evidenced at a recent inquest at Poplar on a man who was admitted to the Poplar Hospital suffering from pains in the abdomen which grew rapidly worse. An operation was performed but revealed nothing, and the patient subsequently died.

A medical officer at the hospital stated at the inquest that he had made a post-mortem examination but found nothing adequate to account for the man's death.

Dr. Temple Grey, pathologist, of Harley Street, said he had made a second post-mortem examination, which revealed that the cause of death was hæmochromatosis, an extremely rare disease of metabolism. The cause was unknown, and no cure was known.

The disease was due to some toxin elaborated by the liver which led to the retention in the body of large quantities of iron. These were disposed in various organs, ultimately interfering with their function. In this case there was even some in the heart.

"It used," deposed Dr. Temple Grey, "to be called bronze diabetes, but this name was unfortunate, as it occurred without bronze or diabetes. It was discovered in 1898, and is so rare that when a case occurs one has forgotten about the last."

The symptoms were strongly suggestive of an acute condition of the abdomen, and the disease could not have been diagnosed before death.

The Coroner (Dr. R. L. Guthrie) recorded a verdict of "Death from natural causes."

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