

us of many happy functions, where, dressed in his becoming scarlet coat, he radiated dignity and éclat as Master of Ceremonies. A man of elegant form and handsome face, his wonderfully impressive and resonant voice commanded "silence" for the most illustrious speakers.

We first came into contact with Mr. Knightsmith when he acted as picturesque Master of Ceremonies at the historic Nursing Pageant in 1911, and announced the coming of the Goddess Hygeia, in the few words we had written for him:—

"My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Pray silence for the Pageant and Masque on the Evolution of Trained Nursing and the Right of Life to Health. Hygeia, Goddess of Health, will now lead the Procession of Immortals." Then the great doors of the Hall were thrown open, and Hygeia, impersonated by Miss Irene Fergusson, appeared: a vision of loveliness in white archaic Greek dress, her classical head and fair hair crowned by a wreath of golden laurels, round her arm was twined a glittering green serpent, with ruby eyes, emblem of the wisdom of the healing art. As she moved slowly up the Hall, attended by the Elements, Earth, Air, Fire and Water, she appeared the incarnation of health, life and beauty, and the obeisance of the Master of Ceremonies as he waved her to her golden Throne on the flower-decked dais, was a marvel of grace, and gave a realistic touch to the opening of the Pageant which infected all the actors.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, who was attended at his recent operation by Sister Jaggin, S.R.N., Sister in Charge of the eye ward at St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, S.W., has since received the thanks of the Prime Minister for her care of him at this time.

Members of the Central Council for District Nursing in London, which since 1915, when it was formed to systematise the arrangements for district nursing throughout the City of London—and from time to time has widened its activities until it is to-day a federation of district nursing organisations in the Metropolitan Police Area—expressed some concern at the annual meeting, held at the County Hall, Westminster, as to how far its services will be used for distributing grants of money entrusted to it in the past, in view of the changes made by the Local Government Act of 1929. During the year the London Parochial Charities have made grants of £3,750, and the L.C.C. of £533 towards over £4,500 distributed by the Central Council.

Sir William Collins, who presided, said that he was recently in communication with the City Parochial Foundation, and, from what he heard through them indirectly, he entertained a hope that arrangements would be made that would be satisfactory to the L.C.C., the City Parochial Foundation, and the Central Council.

The tragedy recently of a hospital where a young probationer, directed to give doses of syrup of figs to three patients, administered belladonna and glycerine instead, emphasises a point to which we have frequently drawn attention, namely, that medicine and poison bottles should be kept in separate cupboards—the latter always locked—and that the bottles should be of different shapes and preferably of a different colour. They should

be distinctly labelled, and periodically returned to the dispensary for this purpose, as never, under any circumstances should labels be removed in the ward.

Within a few days of the publication of the Report of *The Lancet* Commission we have received a "Survey of Nursing Education in Canada," by Professor G. M. Weir, Professor of Education, and Head of the Department of Education, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, undertaken in 1927 by a Joint Study Committee of the Canadian Medical Association and the Canadian Nurses' Association. The work was begun on the 1st November, 1929, and completed on July 31st, 1931. The volume consists of just on 600 pages packed full of information, to which it is impossible in this issue to do more than make a passing reference. We hope later to publish, at least in part, a synopsis of the Report sent to us by the courtesy of the Canadian Nurses' Association by Miss Jean E. Browne, R.N., Secretary of the Study Committee of Nursing Education in Canada. Published by the University Press of Toronto, Toronto. Price two dollars, post paid.

A tribute to the work of the British Nursing Sisters in Iraq is paid in the British Government's report recently published on the administration of the country.

It is pointed out that the British Nursing Sisters have been of the greatest value to the Health Service in Iraq. During the past ten years the Health Service has trained at least 240 local nurses, 160 of whom have left the service to marry or to take up private nursing as midwives.

Courses of midwifery have also been given to selected midwives and to the nursing staff, and 64 certified midwives have been trained in this way, in addition to 362 licensed midwives who have been given short instructional courses of midwifery.

The higher training of Nurses and certificated midwives has been mostly carried out by British Sisters and the training of others by the French Nuns in the Royal Hospital. This work has, of course, been in addition to their nursing duties.

The Iraqi trained Nurses and midwives are very competent as Nurses, but they are not at present fitted for the administrative responsibility of charge of sections of Hospitals or of whole Hospitals.

With the development of women's education in the country it should soon be possible to obtain good-class, well-educated women to send for three years' first-class nursing training in an English or other European General Hospital, where, in addition to a nursing training, their administrative capabilities and sense of authority and responsibility would receive full development. Until women of this sort are available in Iraq it will be impossible to maintain first-class hospitals without foreign Nursing Sisters in charge.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE RESERVE.

The Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, requests that all members of the permanent Reserve who have not yet sent in their report forms for the year 1931, which were due on January 1st, 1932, will do so without delay, addressed to her at the War Office, London, S.W.1.

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