

when those had been replied to, Sir Alfred Rice-Oxley moved from the Chair a vote of thanks to Dr. Carthew for the extremely interesting lecture which he had delivered. He had, said Sir Alfred, brought forward points new to many of those present and he had indicated that powers lay in Radium which were likely to offer great opportunities for further development from a therapeutic point of view. When moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Miss Jessie Holmes said that he had been, was and always would be one of the kindest friends of the Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association. In replying, Sir Alfred said that it was never safe to make statements that had their fulfilment in the future, but in this case he would certainly agree that he always would be a friend of the nurses.

#### OTHER EVENTS.

We had rather a small gathering for the whist drive in aid of the Settlement Home, probably because the evening was somewhat stormy, but it resulted, after meeting a few small expenses, in the sum of £2 towards the Fund we are raising to meet certain improvements.

Mr. Paterson's film on "A Summer in Machrihanish" (shown on February 20th), was a delightful entertainment. We followed the holiday makers from King's Cross to the Highlands through long summer days there, and then back again to where work was seen commencing again in real earnest in Wimpole Street, but "Our hearts were in the Highlands," and suddenly the film transported us back again to the Western seas, to lovely sunsets so well portrayed that we could imagine all their brilliant colouring—and you will find no more gorgeous effects than in Machrihanish—until the last picture of all gradually died away in the shadows of the oncoming night. The sea effects were at all times entrancing, and beautiful too were some of the slow movement pictures of the seagulls; the antics of a large dog, Dandie (who also went on holiday), proved highly amusing.

On February 23rd a number of the Members spent a delightful afternoon rambling through the rooms of the National Gallery. Unfortunately the friend who, we had hoped, would lecture on the pictures was unable to come, but perhaps we absorbed their beauty none the less for that. After the tour Mrs. Temple entertained all the nurses to tea at Lyons' Corner House, hospitality of which great appreciation was expressed.

#### INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS.

We greatly enjoyed the visit of Countess Bellegarde who spent a week in the Club last month. The Countess is a Sister in the Rudolphe Hospital of Vienna, and we admired the energy with which she filled up the short time at her disposal in England. Often we compared notes on nursing methods and on the evening before she left Sister Bellegarde (as she prefers to be called) put on the quaint and most fascinating and unusual uniform of her hospital; we admired particularly the Quaker like little cap.

We have received news of the marriage of Miss H. E. Shih to Mr. K. I. Chung. Miss Shih is the Hon. Secretary of the Nurses' Association of China and we had the pleasure of a fortnight's visit from her a few years ago. We offer our warmest good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Chung, and are glad to hear that the Association is not to lose the valuable services of the latter.

We have just learnt that that most intrepid and able organiser, Miss Frederike Meyboom, is shortly to arrive in London in charge of the organisation and welfare of a large number of Dutch students who are to study the principles of art in some of our great collections. We shall have great pleasure in welcoming her to England again.

#### THE LANCET COMMISSION ON NURSING.

The final Report of *The Lancet* Commission has come in for a full share of discussion at the Club although it has not yet been possible to study it in detail. Two points in particular evoked considerable criticism, the first being the suggestion that girls should be allowed to commence their training in hospital when over seventeen; the view was strongly expressed by the nurses that the majority of those responsible for the Report could have little knowledge or understanding of the mental and physical strain which they propose to put upon girls scarcely out of the schoolroom. Disappointment is felt that few recommendations have been made for the improvement of the position of nurses after they have completed their training. This criticism is a very natural one in a community where there are many private nurses, but nurses in other branches as well constantly refer to the competition which meets them from those who hold a qualification inferior to their own, and to that recognised by the State: Probably the best and only remedy we could find for this condition of things would be to make Registration compulsory; may we see this before long.

Together with the British College of Nurses the Association is holding a Conference on the Report on Tuesday, April 5th, and we hope that Members will do all that they can to make this Meeting known among their friends and that we shall see a large muster of our Members at 39, Portland Place, W.1., on April 5th at 5.30 p.m.

#### APPOINTMENT.

Miss Florence M. Kirkby, S.R.N., has been appointed Inspector of Midwives of the Northern part of the County of Nottingham covering Mansfield and the nursing districts lying round it right up to the Borders of Yorkshire.

Miss Kirkby was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Doncaster, and took her midwifery training at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, where, subsequently, she held an appointment as Sister of the Labour Ward and later as District Superintendent. "A wonderful personality," said one of her colleagues at Queen Charlotte's. "She knows midwifery through and through and her enthusiasm for her work was a real inspiration to some of us." Miss Kirkby was for a considerable period on the Staff of the Society of Chartered Nurses; there also she proved most popular and those responsible for its administration have expressed great regret that her services are lost to the Society.

Miss Kirkby has received warm congratulations from her friends in the R.B.N.A. Club. There was real enthusiasm in the dining room when it became known that she had been successful in obtaining this important appointment, one which she is specially fitted to fill both by her qualifications and her personality.

#### DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Owing to the limitations of space, we have ceased to insert lists of donations and subscriptions to the Benevolent and other special Funds. A list is, however, being put up at Headquarters each month and to any Member applying for a copy we will send one with great pleasure.

#### CLUB FIXTURES.

Owing to the proximity of Easter we have few fixtures for the current month. By request we are having a bridge party on Friday, 4th March, at 3.0 p.m. Miss Macdonald will give a lantern lecture on Nursing History on Wednesday, 9th inst., at 8.0 p.m. and at the same hour on Thursday, 17th inst., we are to have, what will prove very interesting, a "Talk on Bacteria," by Miss Robinson, who will bring her microscope, cultures and slides for purposes of demonstration.

194, QUEEN'S GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.7.

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)