

system of a pronounced and practical type. It was characterised by veneration for the Emperor, courage and great ability in war, with a code of knightood and honour which ended often in *Hari Kari*. There was contempt for the artisan craftsman and commercial enterprise on the part of individuals with carelessness of life and utter ruthlessness in war until the days of Taiko Hidegoshi, who was the first to show mercy to the captured. In 1868 the great turning point came when the Emperor Meiji emerged from his seclusion and assumed entire control of the government of his country. Dr. Bennett gave interesting glimpses into the various periods in which the different types of art find their setting; in the earliest schools of painters very fine work was done which is now of great value. Various developments were described in the arts of printing and descriptive text, and in the seventeenth century books became more and more common. Particularly the work of Tachibana Mori-Kuni in that century was referred to; he compiled an enormous encyclopædia of fifty volumes on every subject under the sun, including history and legends of China and Japan; it was illustrated with amazing wealth of detail and technical accuracy. Next we were told about Hokusia in the eighteenth century (who called himself "the old man mad about painting") and of the development of the Uki-yo-ye school of popular colour painting whereby have been preserved so many of the legends and traditions of old Japan. Many developments came quickly after 1868 but prior to this Christian missionaries had come to Japan, trade with other nations had been developing and English and American influences crept in.

Dr. Bennett said that the pottery of Japan is of the first rank. Chinese pottery alone can compete with the Japanese. Some of their colours are inimitable, as for instance, "Imperial yellow," "ruby," "oxblood," "crushed strawberry pink," "peach," "blue moonlight," etc. Dr. Bennett enumerated the different types of Japanese pottery and porcelain, mentioning the materials used and giving indications of the processes of manufacture and decoration, with references to the periods to which they belonged. These descriptions served to show the joy which the Japanese take in art for art's sake, their love of beautiful colours and their artistic understanding of how to utilise their knowledge of the materials with which they worked. The beauty of sparse decoration in brilliant enamel—red, blue, green, gold, etc.—was emphasised in contrast to that used for much modern stuff of poor taste and garish ornamentation. The Japanese were originally pupils of the Chinese, but, in the totality of their ceramic art, have surpassed the latter. Dr. Bennett referred to the more important types of this and to the various periods of each type.

From ceramic Dr. Bennett passed on to the art of lacquer, which he said was one of the oldest in Japan and he described to some extent the processes used and the many varieties of finish. He indicated something of the enormous variety of objects which are made in lacquer and gave indications of the elaborate workmanship involved.

After the lecture we admired the numerous specimens which were displayed on several tables—china, lovely lacquer work, beautiful swords, and strange little carvings, perfect in detail, of gods and warriors, goblins, dragons, demons, snakes, centipedes, apes, tortoises and badgers—indeed, there is no subject that has not found its appeal for the artist.

Dr. Owens expressed the gratitude of all those who had been privileged to attend the lecture and their appreciation of the delightful glimpses which Dr. Bennett had given them into the history and art of Old Japan.

OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the deaths of the following members of the Association: Mrs. Ashby,

Mrs. Boyce, Miss M. A. Hewetson, Miss L. E. Newman and Miss A. L. Wait.

RAMBLE TO WINCHESTER.

Time and again in the course of expeditions to Embley Park and East Wellow we have passed through the City of Winchester, once the capital of England and holding connections with a far distant past indeed. Repeatedly we had promised ourselves the joy of a ramble to Winchester, and we were fortunate, as usual, in the weather and enjoyed a picnic lunch by the roadside just before we came within sight of the town. Once there, few found time to explore much besides the Cathedral, a perfect treasure-house indeed of architecture and exquisite carving, filled, too, with the fragrance of many memories of the past, and we found contacts not a few with the history of nursing.

On the site of the Cathedral stood, in earliest Christian centuries, a British Church probably the successor of a pagan temple. In the reign of the Emperor Constantine a second church was erected here, and his son was a monk in an adjoining monastery; it may be that we walked over the very places where this grandson of the great Empress Helena sprinkled holy water on the sick, a course which, in those days, was the main method of medical treatment. Winchester would appear to have many very special connections with the Queens of England, and, indeed, the city was the dower given by Ethelred to this Queen, Emma Elgiva, in 1002.

Closely connected, too, is Winchester Cathedral with the story of the rival claims of the Empress Matilda and Matilda of Boulogne (Foundress of St. Katherine's by the Tower) to the Crown of England. To Winchester also Edward I brought his fair Eleanor, the Crusading Queen, in 1276, and they were received with great state at the Cathedral.

We spent time thus among memories of personalities whose lives bore connections with nursing history, and only regretted that we had not more to spare in order, perhaps, to discover further links. On the way home we took the road that led past the Abbey of Romsey, where the Lady Matilda spent her childhood and "learnt the literature of her own and preceding ages," under the guardianship of the Royal and scholarly Abbess Christina, sister of Queen Margaret.

ADDITIONS TO THE CLUB.

We have recently added five new single rooms to our Club. During the autumn of last year we found the problem of accommodating all the Members who wished to stay at the Club a somewhat difficult one. These new rooms will make administration easier and help very much our efforts to make the Members, who come to stay at headquarters, as comfortable as possible.

THE LATE MISS ELIZABETH RYAN.

In our last issue we gave a report of the concert which was held in aid of the Settlement Fund and it was with sincere sorrow that we heard of the death of Miss Elizabeth Ryan on June 12th. She looked so well when we enjoyed her lovely singing, on the day of the concert, that it was difficult, when we received the sad news, to realise that she and her beautiful gift of song have been taken from us; the pleasure she gave to us will long remain one of the many happy memories connected with *Queen's Gate*. One of the Members remarked on how graciously Miss Ryan's kindness to the nurses at the Settlement Home was extended. The former had said some words of appreciation of her singing, "Oh but I liked doing it and I'll do it for you any time you want me to." Kindness when joined to cordiality and courtesy doubles its value.

194, QUEEN'S GATE,
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ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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