

REGISTRATION DAY.

The Ceremony of Registration Day took place on Saturday, December 17th, at 4.30 p.m., at the termination of the Council Meeting, in the Secretary's Office, which had been beautifully decorated with lovely flowers and holly by the Office staff.

In the centre of the room a splendid frosted cake inscribed "British College of Nurses" was placed with a replica of the seal of the College in marzipan, and below, in crimson letters, "Registration of Nurses, 1919-1932."

This year the special feature of the Ceremony was an Address given by Miss E. J. Haswell, Councillor, to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Miss Agnes Jones, the reformer of Poor Law Nursing in Liverpool, and Mrs. Kitty Wilkinson, of Public Health fame, in the same city.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, was in the Chair, and expressed warm thanks to Miss Haswell for her very sympathetic and instructive History of the lives of these two splendid women, so ably presented in her first Address at the College, which all agreed must not be her last.

The Cutting of the Cake.

The ten Members of the Council present then each set a taper alight, Miss Beatrice Kent acting for Miss M. Breay, Vice-President, whose absence at this festive gathering was much regretted, and Miss K. M. Latham, R.R.C., and Miss M. G. Allbutt also took part, so completing the lighting of the thirteen tapers. The President then cut the Cake, which was handed round on the beautiful Sir Richard Barnett Memorial Platter.

The Fellows and Members present had been selected as active workers in municipal hospitals, and the Council were especially pleased to welcome (at present on leave) Miss Gladys Ethel Stephenson, F.B.C.N., Matron, Union Hospital, Hankow, President, Nurses' Association of China, and Miss Alice Simpkin, F.B.C.N., Nurse-in-Charge, Likoma, Universities Mission to Central Africa.

The Registration Ceremony is always a very gay affair, and in time we may hope that it may be made the occasion of instructing the younger generation of Registered Nurses in the history of the great movement which placed them in the ranks of professional women, through the passing of the Nurses' Registration Acts.

TO ALL YOUNG STUDENT NURSES.

"Life is before you!
A sacred burden is the life ye bear,
Look at it, lift it, wear it solemnly;
Stand up and walk under it steadfastly:
Fail not for sorrow, falter not for sin,
Onward and upward, till the goal ye win;
God guard ye and God guide ye on your way
Young pilgrim warriors who set forth this day."

MISS HASWELL'S ADDRESS.

KITTY WILKINSON AND AGNES JONES.

This year marks the Centenary of two remarkable women whose life and work has left its impression not only on the city of Liverpool in which they did their principal works, Agnes Jones and Kitty Wilkinson. Both pioneers though of different type except for the same selfless giving of themselves for others.

We will take the humble though great Kitty Wilkinson first. This is the centenary of the year she came into prominent notice, not the year of her birth. Kitty Wilkinson came into prominent notice the year Agnes Jones was born, 1832. Her story is an almost incredible one. T. P. O'Connor said "She seemed, like some 'Hound of Heaven' to pursue misery, illness, suffering women and half starved children, wherever they might be hidden." She also had a genius for finding the practical solutions of difficulties. She had known want and poverty all her life. The child of a soldier who died when Kitty was very young and a mother who through a tragic accident became blind and insane, she early had the care and responsibility of the home. She herself says, she was more fortunate than many in being given a kind friend who helped her to form good habits and taught her to read.

She was our first Social worker. She founded the system of public baths and washhouses now established in all large cities. She also started the first Infant School. Not a bad record for a poor woman living in one of the poorest quarters in the city.

In a letter written 24th Jan., 1848, by Mr. W. Rathbone in the *Economist* we read "In the year 1832 when cholera broke out in Liverpool a poor woman, Kitty Wilkinson, wife of a labourer, whose kitchen contained a boiler, allowed the most destitute to wash their infected linen there. The

kitchen could only hold three women at a time. Some time later the District Provident Association came to her aid, they rented the cellar under her house, put in a 20 gallon boiler, a wine cask for cistern and later, troughs. This held 14 washers who worked under Kitty's supervision. She had been taught by a doctor how to disinfect clothing with chloride of lime and so saved much that otherwise would have had to be destroyed. The women did their own washing except the infected linen which was done by hired washers, and one week's record was 34 beds, 110 blankets, 60 quilts, 158 sheets (of which 120 were lent) and 140 dozens clothes. At the same time this remarkable woman with the aid of a neighbour, Mrs. Lloyd, had an infant school of 20 scholars in her bedroom, children of the dead and dying, also lodgers and destitute people she was caring for, and to her credit there was not a single case of cholera either among the household or washers. Later an Infant department was attached to a school for older children and Mrs. Lloyd appointed Teacher of the first Infant School in Liverpool.



**KITTY WILKINSON,
Our first Social Worker.**

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