

and is now a bonny little thing of nearly 4 lb. at five weeks old. I have had three sets of twins and triplets in one month; the triplets all lived, two little girls and a little boy, but they come from a very poor home. After they left hospital I went to see them and they live in a place which would only be fit for a coal-hole in England, mud house with no window, no light or ventilation, and it is the Chinese custom that the mother must not leave her room for the first month, so they have a very poor chance of growing up. I almost hope they do not, as the little girls are almost sure to be sold as slaves if they do.

"Work out here is very different from at home, there are so many curious beliefs that one cannot disregard, it is such a disgrace for a woman not to have a son that on more than one occasion we have been accused of changing boys for girls. The placenta always has to be saved, and is taken home in a pot and buried in the mud floor of the house, this to protect it, as they believe if anything happens to the placenta the baby will die.

"I was so glad to hear you had such wonderful success at the Sale of Work last year. I expect by the time I visit the P.R.I. again the new Maternity Wards will be built."

ENID TINDALL.

INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association was held at East Ham Corporation Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Roman Road, E.6, on Saturday, March 10th, 1934.

On their arrival, the members were received by the Matron, Miss McLoughlin. The President, Miss J. T. Ruddy was in the Chair.

The Hon. Secretary, Miss B. M. West, reported a letter received from the Secretary, The Executive Committee of the National Council of Women of Great Britain, in reply to the resolution sent from the last meeting of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association, opposing the recommendation of the National Council of Women to divide the Preliminary State Examination of Nurses.

Miss Ruddy proposed from the Chair that a letter of warm appreciation be sent to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, thanking her for the publication and distribution of the leaflet setting forth the full discussion which took place in the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, on the disastrous proposal to divide the Preliminary State Examination of Nurses, recommended by *The Lancet* Commission, that this masterly report had proved invaluable to all those who realise that the principle of the One Portal to the State Register must be supported at all costs. This was unanimously carried.

In dealing with a large amount of correspondence, a letter expressing thanks for good wishes on her retirement from the Matronship of the Croydon Borough Hospital, was received from Miss Stevenson, stating her warm desire to continue to support the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association, although retired; her altruistic principles were warmly applauded by those present, and it was agreed that a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent to Miss Stevenson.

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting be held in the provinces and subject to the convenience of the hostess, should take place on Saturday, June 2nd.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the committee was conducted to the very fine nurses' sitting-room, where they were most courteously welcomed by the Mayor of the Borough of East Ham, Mr. Alderman Bagot, the Medical Officer of Health for that Borough, Dr. Malcolm Barker, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., and Dr. J. Landon, Medical Superintendent of the Hospital.

A delicious tea was served, and in reply to a vote of thanks given by Miss M. Wright, Matron, Joint Hospital, Biggleswade, the Mayor replied in which he commended the advisability of the principle of meeting in association,

and wished the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association success and prosperity in its far-reaching work.

A tour of the Hospital was much enjoyed. The site, perhaps on the highest ground of the district, with no buildings between it and the great Father Thames, has unexpected charm, and the lovely fresh breeze is greatly enjoyed. As we passed through the well laid out grounds, pretty green open spaces outlined by shrubs and occasional trees, we might have been many miles from the town. The newly-erected Diphtheria Block, 27 beds, and the Isolation Cubicles of some 17 beds, were of the very latest design; large windows giving light from aspects facing south and east, where patients, although isolated, see the passers-by, and enjoy an uninterrupted view of the grounds and beyond.

After a most engrossing afternoon, the Committee expressed warm thanks and appreciation to the members of the Management Committee, the Mayor, Mr. Alderman Bagot, the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Malcolm Barker, and the Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. Landon, and to our tireless hostess, Miss McLoughlin, for the kind hospitality extended to the members of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association.

A GREAT ADVOCATE OF NURSES' REGISTRATION.

The death of Viscount Novar of Raith and Novar, P.C., K.T., G.C.M.G., which took place at Raith, Kirkcaldy, on March 30th, will occasion a deep sense of loss to those nurses who, in the early days of the movement for State Registration of Nurses, were brought into contact with him as Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson, through his advocacy of their cause in the House of Commons, where he had charge of the Bill for their State Registration (first introduced by Dr. Farquharson of Haughton, M.P., in 1904) in the years 1905-1914. By his invariable kindness and courtesy he earned and received the gratitude of those who stood not only for the standardisation of nursing education, and the registration of those nurses who reached the prescribed standard, but also for the representation of registered nurses by a substantial majority on the Governing Body to be set up under the Act when passed.

The special service rendered to nurses by Lord Novar was that at a time when the cause of women was discounted, and when the opposition to the movement for the State Registration of Nurses was, for economic and other reasons, active and intense, he gave the Nurses' Bill the support of his influence, and his prestige in the House of Commons, and Lady Novar (Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, a daughter of the great Lord Dufferin), supported it in public speeches and in the press with eloquence and logic excelled by none.

In 1914 Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson was appointed Governor-General and Commander in Chief in Australia, and by the time he returned to England in 1920, the Nurses' Act was on the Statute Book. Sir Ronald, on his return, was created, for his patriotic services, a Viscount, taking the title of Novar of Raith and Novar.

To Lady Novar in her bereavement we offer the deepest sympathy of the Nursing Profession, for which both she and Lord Novar have done so much.

THE KING'S MESSAGE.

The King sent the following telegram to Lady Novar:—
"The Queen and I are grieved to hear of the death of Lord Novar and offer you our heartfelt sympathy at the close of a long and distinguished career of public service.—
GEORGE R.I."

A beautiful wreath in sincere gratitude for services rendered, was sent by Registered Nurses grouped in the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and from the Royal British Nurses' Association.

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