

of statutory education of Nurses? Trained Nurses. Who controlled the publicity campaign in support of this reform? Trained Nurses. Who has proved specially capable as Chairman of the General Nursing Council? A Registered Nurse. Who created and organised the first and most successful International Council of Professional Women? Trained Nurses. And so on. To flout the idea of representation of Registered Nurses on a Standing Committee, such as the Hospitals and Medical Services Committee of the L.C.C., proves the ignorance and prejudice of those who control it, and we hope a more enlightened electorate may be in power in the future.

#### NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The Annual Meetings of the Nurses' Missionary League at University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C., on May 3rd were extremely well attended in the morning and afternoon, and a large number of members were present from overseas. At the afternoon conversazione little groups formed round the twelve overseas members (each labelled with name and country), to look at photos and hear first-hand details about the work in various parts of India, China, Ceylon, Persia and Uganda. The nurse-speakers throughout the day gave vivid word-pictures of life and needs in distant lands. Miss Carleton (King's College Hospital) described the life of an Indian widow who spent many weary years in journeying from shrine to shrine and at last found peace in the Mission hospital. Miss Harper (Royal Free Hospital) spoke of the women in Sierra Leone, where polygamy is the usual custom, and where the death rate among children is 50 per cent. Mrs. Underhill (Norfolk and Norwich Hospital) told of the wonderful influence of the mission hospitals in all parts of India in these days of unrest, and especially on the N.W. Frontier, where so much is done not only to heal, but to promote friendship. Miss P. R. A. Sharpe (the London Hospital) took her audience round the Lester Chinese Hospital, Shanghai, to visit the medical and surgical wards and the research laboratories and operating theatres; and told stories of patients, would-be suicides, ex-robbers, accident-cases, babies, and the soldiers and civilians wounded in the fighting against the Japanese. Miss Verinder (Steyning Infirmary) spoke of the vast need of the women in the villages in Persia, illustrating it with story after story of patients whom she herself had seen. These addresses, one and all, urged the responsibility upon members of the nursing profession to fill the many vacant posts overseas. In the closing address the Rev. J. B. Chutter spoke on the urgent need for all Christians in every land to bear in their lives the marks of their Master—goodness, power and love.

#### LEAVES.

One by one, like leaves from a tree,  
All my faiths have forsaken me;  
But the stars above my head  
Burn in white and delicate red,  
And beneath my feet the earth  
Brings the sturdy grass to birth.

I who was content to be  
But a silken-singing tree,  
But a rustle of delight  
In the wistful heart of night—  
I have lost the leaves that knew  
Touch of rain and weight of dew.

Blinded by a leafy crown,  
I looked neither up nor down—  
But the little leaves that die  
Have left me room to see the sky;  
Now for the first time I know  
Stars above and earth below.

SARA TEASDALE.

## PRACTICAL HINTS FOR THE NURSE DISPENSER.

By Miss E. L. B. FORSTER.

Occasionally it is a nurse's duty to do a little elementary dispensing, so it is useful for her to know a few simple rules as care and accuracy are so essential.

Before dissolving crystals, they should be crushed down, then weighed a second time to guard against any fear of loss.

On no account may hot water be used in making a solution unless it is ordered, and no matter how simple it may be, it must not be used until every grain of the solid is in solution.

A stirrer must always be made of glass, china, or bone, never metal. The same rule applies to a spatula, for spreading an ointment. A bone paper knife makes an excellent emergency one.

If there are no scales available with a glass pan, two pieces of white paper must be cut at the same time, and one placed on each pan. When weighing a greasy substance, it must be placed upon a small glass or china vessel, the weight of which has been taken previously.

Fats should never be melted unless the directions state that they must be, then the vessel containing them must be placed in warm water.

When an oil has to be added to a fat it must be dropped in a little at a time and well blended before any more is added.

When powders have to be mixed, small quantities can be treated upon a sheet of glazed paper: large amounts must be blended in a mortar. When a minute amount of powder has to be added to a quantity, it must first of all be mixed with a little of the bulk, before it is added to the mass. This will ensure it being evenly disseminated.

When a powder has to be added to a fat, if the latter has been melted, it is extremely important that the preparation is stirred until perfectly cold, otherwise the result will be very unsatisfactory.

When preparing boracic lotion for the eyes, the crystals, not the powder, must be used, and this is one of the times when it is inadvisable to crush them down. Distilled water should be used, and the greatest care taken that the solution is quite clear before use.

When handling preparations, it is well to make a rule to always stir in one direction, although it is not necessary in every case, yet there are times when it is essential. The greatest care must be taken in reading the names of ingredients for a preparation, because there are cases where two preparations have somewhat similar ones, but they are totally different. As an example, where there is a simple and a compound preparation: simple tincture of benzoin and compound tincture of benzoin. The former a frequent ingredient in toilet aids, for the skin.

Under no circumstances should a nurse dispenser ever substitute anything for what *should* be used.

If the label is not legible, the preparation must not be used. There should be no trusting to memory.

To prevent labels from getting soiled, it is an excellent plan to pour out from the back of a bottle, then if drops fall, the label will not get damaged.

#### LEGACIES FOR NURSES.

The Honourable Grace Emma Tollemache, of Graham Street, Eaton Terrace, London, S.W., left £500 to Nurse Annie Shingleton.

Mr. Charles Hardy, of Argos Hill, Rotherfield, Sussex, left £100 to his nurse, Alice Marriott.

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