

The Metropolitan District Nursing Association was founded in 1875 as the "Bloomsbury Queen's Nurses," in response to an appeal by Florence Nightingale, to provide skilled nurses for the sick poor and persons of limited means in their own homes in Central London, and was the pioneer of organised district nursing in London. In affiliation with the Queen's Institute of District Nursing it now serves, from its two training homes, an area stretching from Park Lane to the City, and including the poor districts of Somerstown, Pentonville, and Goswell Road. The diamond jubilee of the association is being celebrated this year, with a special appeal for £60,000 to provide for more nurses and accommodation and to form an endowment fund.

A bequest of £1,000 to the Heckmondwike District Nursing Association and Maternity Home is contained in the will of Mr. Thomas Wharton, of Broadway, Morecambe.

The endowment of district nursing is just as valuable as the endowment of hospitals, and indeed in the future domiciliary nursing will be found to be an urgent need in the promotion of national health.

A scheme for the weighing and measuring of London schoolchildren every six months, at a cost this year of £3,300 and £3,960 a year afterwards, is recommended by the Special Services Committee of the London Education Committee, London County Council.

Twenty-two full-time school nurses, the sub-committee state, will be required to deal with the children—those up to 12 years of age—of whom there are about 400,000 in the schools.

The sub-committee also recommend that all cases of malnutrition be followed up. It is hoped to operate the scheme from June 1.

We note that in advertising for an Assistant Matron that the London County Council state:—"State Registered Nurse preferred." Surely it should read "State Registered Nurse imperative."

What is the use of long and arduous training, stiff exams., certificates and medals bestowed at County Hall with a flourish of trumpets, and then to find they do not amount to a row of pins when competing with untrained women for a responsible professional post?

A writer in the *Brighton and Hove Herald* says:

"I have always admired and marvelled at the endurance, cheerfulness, and tireless energy of the hospital nurse, but I confess that it came as something of a surprise to hear what mileage she does during a day.

"The Matron of the Royal Sussex County Hospital (Miss E. M. Young) told me that a young probationer who came recently to the hospital was so struck with the amount of running about the nurses had to do that she got a pedometer and carried it with her on her duties. It registered fifteen miles at the end of the day! The next day she gave it to another nurse, who proved a very good runner-up at ten miles!"

In his delightful paper on the "Inns of Court" which Mr. C. E. A. Bedwell gave to the Society of Arts he mentioned (says the *Morning Post*), how the Middle Temple was the favourite with Americans between

1750 and 1800, and its members included five signatories of the American Declaration of Independence. An interesting little footnote on that point may be added.

The first organised body of Americans to arrive in this country after the United States entered the Great War was a small volunteer party of nurses from Pennsylvania. A resident in the Temple, who thought something ought to be done to celebrate this historic arrival, invited a number of the nurses to tea in his chambers, and they were shown over the Middle Temple hall with due honour. It was a Sunday and they had the place to themselves. The head porter of the Middle Temple, wearing his medals, showed the treasures and made his speeches with unusual impressiveness.

After explaining the custom of the Templars and their method of eating their way by dinners into the Bar and other mysteries, he told the visitors how the Declaration of Independence had been signed by five members of the Inn, who had sat round that table. The nurses seemed incredulous and a little distressed. The official then made the traditional joke in the circumstances, "Surely you know, ladies, that your Declaration of Independence was signed by British gentlemen?" That was too much. But he quelled their expostulation with the remark, "But there weren't any Americans, ladies, until that Declaration was signed." But even that did not satisfy them, so he turned on the fountain in Fountain Court and took them down the steps to see it, and all was peace and harmony again.

A very handsome invitation reached us from the Nurses Alumnae Association of the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore, Maryland, to attend the dinner given in honour of Miss Elsie Lawler, to celebrate her twenty-fifth anniversary as Superintendent of Nurses and Principal of the Training School, on March 16th, at The Belvedere. Needless to say how greatly we appreciate the compliment, but alas! distance prevented us taking part in what we realise would be a very great occasion. Miss Lawler is one of the most ardent supporters of the I.C.N. and known and beloved by colleagues all over the world. No doubt we shall have a full account of this great occasion in the Johns Hopkins Alumnae Magazine.

The great school has a warm corner in our heart, as it was there in 1902 that we first met Isabel Hampton and Lavinia Dock, and later where Miss M. Adelaide Nutting carried on the great traditions of the Nursing School. It has indeed been greatly privileged to have resident four such outstanding leaders of nursing as Hampton Robb, Dock, Nutting and Lawler, and to have known them all we realise is a vast privilege indeed.

The Meeting of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses is always a very strenuous and educative occasion, and the forthcoming gathering at Geneva in July will need very serious consideration of ways and means, as funds and finances, so all important, must be placed on a thoroughly businesslike basis. Fortunately, in Miss Musson, we have a very able financier as Treasurer, and we have no doubt she will deal with her department without hesitation or ambiguity.

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