

and most lovely spring flowers, violets, primroses, daffodils, lilies, narcissi, and tulips, and was greatly admired.

The British College of Nurses can ill afford to lose such devoted women as Miss Lovatt and Miss Dinnie.

#### ADMINISTRATION CLASS.

By the kind consent of the authorities and Matron arrangements have been made for the Administration Class to visit the National Society for Epileptics, Chalfont Colony, Gerrard's Cross, on April 9th, 1935.

#### FIXTURE.

April 13th.—Monthly Meeting of the Council. 2.30 p.m.

#### NOTICE OF ELECTION.

The Notice of Election to the Council appears on page ii of cover.

There are vacancies for Two Fellows and for One Member.

#### WAR MEDALS OF THE LATE MISS F. M. BARTLEET, A.R.R.C.

The following War Medals, Tokens and Badges have been presented by Miss A. M. Bushby to the History Section of the British College of Nurses, where they will be carefully preserved:—

1. The 1914 Medal.
2. The War Medal.
3. The Victory Medal.
4. The Serbian Medal.
5. The Serbian Red Cross Medal.
6. The Token given by the Belgians to commemorate the fact they had worked in Brussels during the first months of the War.
7. The Danish Token to acknowledge kind services to the wounded.
8. The Badge of the British College of Nurses.
9. The Reserve Badge of Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.

### PUBLIC HEALTH.

#### THE CREMATION SOCIETY.

A report of much interest is that of the Cremation Society for 1934, which has been a year of considerable activity in the cremation movement. Founded in 1874, by the late Sir Henry Thompson, Bart., to promote a more sanitary, reverent and inexpensive method of disposing of the dead, the Society was in 1922 incorporated under the Companies' Acts as a body limited by guarantee, without a share capital and not conducted for profit.

While in early years of the Society's existence, cremation was considered mainly in its personal aspect, and its application was limited to comparatively few, at the present time the question is being considered in relation to the community by public authorities and those concerned for the public welfare in all parts of the country.

Apart from the large number of Local Authorities who are contemplating the provision of cremation facilities, four new crematoria were opened during the year by municipalities, and one at Blackpool was almost completed, bringing the total of crematoria established in Great Britain to 29. The number of cremations carried out during the year under review was 8,337. In all, a total of 80,275 cremations have been effected since the pioneer crematorium was opened at Woking in 1885.

Reference was made in the last report to the formation of the National Council for the Disposition of the Dead, an organisation which has for its objects (1) The revision

and codification of the laws governing the disposition of the dead; (2) The preservation of the land in the interests of the living; (3) The improvement of the status of those concerned with the disposition of the dead; and (4) The safeguarding of the public interests in all matters relating thereto.

The National Council proposes first of all to proceed with the task of obtaining State Registration for Undertakers, believing that considerable public benefit will accrue therefrom and that the way will then be clear for the Revision and Codification of the Law.

Another important departure is the publication of a quarterly journal, entitled "Pharos," which has already proved its value, the annual subscription to which is 2s. 6d.

The Annual Subscription to the Cremation Society, the Headquarters of which are at 23, Nottingham Place, London, W.1, is £1 1s. 0d.; Life Membership, £5 5s. 0d. provides for cremation at any British Crematorium without fee.

Lastly, since the industrial community in this country has not hitherto been reached by the Society's propaganda to any measurable extent, it has been decided to offer a form of cremation insurance which will provide prepayment of cremation by small periodical contributions.

It is important that nurses should be acquainted with the activities of the Cremation Society since they should be able to give information concerning it if so desired.

#### THE POTENTIAL DANGERS OF RAW MILK.

A report submitted to the Eton Rural District Council by Dr. V. A. T. Spong, its Medical Officer, on the outbreak of scarlet fever at Denham, graphically illustrates the danger of infected milk and the necessity at all times of strict supervision of the production of milk and of those engaged in this industry.

In the outbreak of scarlet fever under consideration "the total number of cases infected by the milk was 85. The date of onset was between March 5th and March 7th, and with one exception they had all consumed milk from the same farm on March 4th. Two of them died, one from complicating broncho-pneumonia and one who was making a good recovery developed appendicitis and died after an operation.

"The outbreak," concluded the Medical Officer, "serves to show the potential dangers of raw milk. Had the milk been pasteurised this outbreak would not have occurred. However sanitary the farm and cowsheds may be there is always the ever-present danger of infection either from a human source or the herd. The following fact may be alarming but nevertheless is true: that unless all persons engaged in the production of milk are swabbed every two or three days one cannot guarantee that they are not carrying the disease germs which may infect the milk. The only practicable remedy is, in my opinion, the pasteurisation of the milk supply of the whole country and mechanical bottling after pasteurisation."

We should say further that the outbreak serves to show that the energies of public health authorities and agriculturists should be directed, without ceasing, to the production and supply of pure milk, for, at best, milk that is only safe when pasteurised is not milk originally free from infection but milk which, owing to its pasteurisation, contains dead instead of living germs. Scarcely a pleasant thought for the consumer.

#### NERVES AND NOISE.

Listening to a Sunday evening broadcast of "The Week's Good Cause," we heard Lord Horder, Physician-in-Ordinary to the Prince of Wales, speak on the effect of noise on nerves, and plead for support of the Anti-Noise League,

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