

at Rowditch Mental Hospital, Derby, on Tuesday, 18th February, at 3.30 p.m., where the members were the guests of Miss McGarvie.

The members present were :

Miss McGarvie, Miss Webb, Miss Watson, Miss Maidwell and Miss Scott Seymour.

The next meeting of the Midland Group will be held on Friday, 29th May, 1936, at 3.30 p.m., at Narborough Mental Hospital, Leicester, by kind invitation of Miss Watson.

The meeting was then addressed by Dr. Noel Harris, M.D., of the Woodside Hospital, Muswell Hill. His subject was "The Future of Mental Nursing," which he discussed from five points: 1, The Present Position; 2, Ideas for the Future; 3, How the Ideal can be obtained; 4, Education of the Public; and 5, How can the Public help?

Miss Macaulay thanked Dr. Harris very sincerely on behalf of the members for his inspiring and helpful address.

THE LEAGUE OF SISTER TUTORS.

(Communicated.)

A meeting of the League was held on Saturday, March 28th, at 3.30 p.m., at the Royal British Nurses' Association House. Tea preceded the meeting.

The Chair was taken by the President, Miss Ballard, and a very inspiring address on "Teaching and its Difficulties" was given by Miss I. Wilkins, B.A., Principal, Public Health Department, Battersea Polytechnic

After the address letters were read by the Secretary, Miss Challenger, from Sister Tutors from all over the country, protesting against the new ruling of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales with regard to the teaching of Elementary Anatomy and Physiology by medical practitioners instead of trained Sister Tutors. A lively discussion followed, the chief points which were stressed being:—

"First, the Sister Tutors feel it is an unnecessary change: the results of the Preliminary Examination show, where a Trained Sister Tutor is giving these lectures, a very high percentage of passes.

"Small hospitals cannot afford to pay special lecturers and a Sister Tutor—so the latter will be dispensed with.

"Where a Sister Tutor is holding a travelling post and serving several hospitals, the same thing applies.

"If the G.N.C. have been dissatisfied with results in the past from some hospitals, why have they not inspected those hospitals?

"Small hospitals cannot have many Nurses from the wards for lectures at one time or the patients will suffer badly. A lecturer from outside the hospital cannot be expected to attend for a class of 8 or 10 Nurses.

"The Sister Tutor has been able to adopt times suitable for the hospital convenience for her lectures, and this has been successful.

"Doctors have to lecture when they can, and are frequently unpunctual and miss their lectures at a moment's notice, so that Sister Tutor has to give the lecture without any time for preparation.

"It is very seldom that a Doctor can come down to a Nurse's level in lecturing: if these subjects are handed over then the Sister Tutor must give Foundation Classes."

A resolution was then put to the meeting by the President and carried unanimously by ballot.

Votes of Thanks were passed to Miss Wilkins for her inspiring address and to Miss Macdonald for her kind courtesy and hospitality.

A silver collection was taken for Miss Borne's scheme for the care of tuberculous Nurses at Papworth.

Draft Resolution.

Resolved that the text of the Recommendations sent to all Hospital Training Schools by the G.N.C., are misleading and likely to increase the difficulties of training Nurses either for nursing or to pass the State Examinations.

Because—

1. The change will not necessarily be of any benefit to the patient.

2. Nurses do not as a rule fail in these subjects.

3. The change will necessitate extra expense to those Hospitals whose resident Medical Staff is limited.

4. If the G.N.C. are not satisfied with the Examinees from any particular hospital, it is within their power to inspect such hospital.

Such Recommendations as read literally by Hospital Committees may tend to produce the feeling that Revision classes can be carried out by persons not necessarily trained Sister Tutors.

The Primary and Foundation Lectures of these subjects must still of necessity be given by a qualified Sister Tutor who can from experience point out their practical value.

Such lowering of the status of the specially qualified experienced Teaching Sister will not be in the general interests of the Nurses in training.

TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA.

Bengal Nurses' Act.

The March *Nursing Journal of India*, just to hand, is full of interest, and the first item, to which prominence is given, is that "members will be delighted to hear that on February 13th the Bengal Nurses' Act at last came into force." This is another progressive step in the annals of Indian nursing, and the hope is expressed that Bengal will have reciprocity with Great Britain.

Those British nurses whose high privilege it was to occupy seats on the crimson benches of the House of Lords on December 23rd, 1919, and listened to the Royal Assent to the Nurses' Registration Bill, proclaimed with dignified ceremonial in the quaint old Norman French, "Le Roy le Veult," can rejoice with their colleagues in India that their efforts to obtain State Registration of Nurses in Bengal have at length met with success.

Information with regard to all the post-graduate courses to be obtained in England and Scotland are now available from the office of the Association, and it is significant of the value of Registration to the Nurses in Madras and Burma that they have great advantages over other provinces because of their reciprocity with Great Britain.

At the Annual Conference of the Trained Nurses' Association of India it was reported that Miss D. Chadwick, Matron-Superintendent of the Government Hospital for Women and Children, Madras, a Vice-President of the Association (who attended the International Congress of Nurses, Paris-Brussels, in 1933), has been appointed Inspectress of Hospitals, Nurses and Midwives in the Madras Presidency.

It was reported that Miss Munro, the Assistant Editor of the Journal, and Miss Raynor, Editor of the Health Visitors' League page, had resigned on account of furlough. Miss S. M. Round, Editor of the Midwives' Union page, also wrote that she was going home on furlough but would continue her work from England.

It was unanimously agreed to send a letter of congratulation to Miss Elizabeth Thomson, a member of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, who had finished the course for Nurse Administrators at Bedford College, London, and had since been appointed Sister-in-Charge of the Preliminary Training School at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.

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