

THE CANADIAN NURSING WORLD.

REVIEW.

The Biennial Meeting of the Canadian Nurses' Association was held at Vancouver from June 29th to July 4th, and apparently it was a most active gathering from every Province, and had a most enthusiastic press.

Election of President.

Miss Ruby M. Simpson, Director of Public Health Nursing in Saskatchewan, was automatically re-elected President of the Association. Another popular leader we shall all hope to welcome to London next year.

A full complement of delegates, the President and four other delegates, will be sent to the International Congress in London.

Dominion Registration.

No definite action was taken on the vastly important question of Dominion Registration as the period for study of the whole plan had been very short, the members at large felt that they needed considerable more time to study the plan presented.

The whole question of Dominion Registration is therefore to be studied for another two-year period; a modified report will be presented to the Provinces, and it is hoped that at the next biennial meeting the Canadian Nurses' Association will be ready to take definite action. When one realises the immensity of the problem to take time for earnest consideration is certainly the wisest course.

The Mary Agnes Snively Medals.

Three Medals in memory of Miss Mary Agnes Snively, founder of the Canadian Nurses' Association and originator of the modern nurses' training school as found to-day in Canada, were awarded to three outstanding professional women.

Recipients of the awards were Miss Edith McPherson Dickson, formerly Superintendent of Nurses, Toronto Hospital for Consumptives; Miss Jean I. Gunn, Superintendent of Nurses Toronto General Hospital, and Miss Mabel F. Hersey, Superintendent of Nurses, Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal.

In an address of appreciation for the services rendered by Miss Snively before her death in 1933 at the age of 86, Miss Ruby M. Simpson, Regina, referred to her as "a Canadian nurse, who, through a broad vision and a zealous devotion, has left her stamp indelibly imprinted upon our profession."

This is the first time that Memorial Medals have been presented by the association. In future, the awards will be made biennially, whenever a convention of the association is held.

The next convention will be held in 1938 at Halifax.

Press Appreciation.

The Daily Province, Vancouver, was specially appreciative of all that concerned the Convention. Commenting on the profession of Nursing, we read:

"Nursing is something more, and perhaps, in its essential requirements, something better, than a science. It is a very wonderful and admirable and infinitely valuable human art, and it is an art in which all that is supremely fine and gracious in the attributes of womanhood finds expression.

The skill and faithfulness of the nurse, the woman nurse, the ministering servitor of the sickroom, is the indispensable aid to the physician. It is right that she should sometimes receive the public recognition which belongs to the faithful performance of her office, and this meeting of Canadian nurses here is Vancouver's opportunity to do no less than that."

SYDNEY HOLLAND: LORD KNUTSFORD.

The Memoir of Sydney Holland, Lord Knutsford, by John Gore, just published by John Murray, Albemarle Street, W. (price 7s. 6d.) must be of great interest to members of the nursing profession not only because its members accord him unstinted admiration for his work for the London Hospital, but because many of them were brought into contact with him in the 30 years' controversy over the State Registration of Nurses, during which he was the leading and formidable protagonist of the anti-registrationists. All the world knows that that controversy ended in victory for the advocates of State Registration, and the handsome acknowledgement of Lord Knutsford in the House of Lords "I am a beaten man." There for the present let the subject rest. One day the history of that 30 years' campaign will be written but, in the meantime, in reviewing this memoir it is necessary to say so much because his biographer tells us that he has "undertaken to write a Memoir of Sydney Holland, touching as far as possible on every phase of his career," and the vital subject of the statutory control of nursing education is not mentioned.

As a character sketch the book will be welcomed by a large number of his friends, and a still larger number of those who knew him not only as a "Prince of Beggars," but as a "Prince of Publicists" for he had brought to a fine art his appeals to the public both directly in speeches, at the end of his life in broadcasting, and continuously in the press in all of which he knew how to establish at once the right relations with his audiences, and to play upon their feelings, as a fine violinist stirs the emotions of his listeners, in order to plead successfully the cause which he had so greatly at heart, and to which he devoted so large a portion of his life with such magnificent success—the Herculean task of obtaining the huge sums of money necessary to entirely modernise the London Hospital and finance it.

His biographer writes: "With his high ideals, and tireless energy, his boundless and sensitive sympathy, his irresistible charm of manner, his sweetness of temper and rigid self-discipline, his courage and optimism, his humanity and humour beyond the ordinary, he made life nobler and happier for scores of his fellows while he lived, and closed with his death a career which stands out as an example and inspiration and comfort to people of every type and class. So much for character. As for the more tangible achievements, it may fairly be claimed that by a shrewd and energetic employment of his peculiar gifts in the chosen field of his labours he left the world a better place than he found it."

The Holland family, we are told, is of great antiquity in Lancashire and remained for centuries remarkably constant to its place of origin. Sydney Holland's grandfather was Sir Henry Holland, first baronet of his line and physician in ordinary to Queen Victoria. He was tactful and discreet and knew how to hold his tongue. Because he knew it he became *ami des rois*. The confidences of Queen Charlotte Mrs. Fitzherbert and of scores of ladies, fair and frail, were safe in his keeping. He was very much of the Barrett type of father and kept his sons short of money and well supplied with moral saws."

Sydney Holland was sent to Wellington with a view to Woolwich which was very unwelcome to him. He had no faith in his qualifications for an Army career, and eventually he fell back on the Bar "because I saw no other way of pleasing my father."

We get an interesting glimpse of the future chairman of the London Hospital when in 1880, in company of two

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