

tion, on condition that other friends of the settlement raised £75,000. The Duke of Kent recently presided at a dinner at Grosvenor House at which it was announced that the terms of the gift has been fulfilled.

Lord Nuffield was unavoidably absent, but he sent a cheque for £25,000.

The Duke also announced that Mr. E. W. Meyerstein had given £20,000 towards the cost of building a new nurses' home.

Prince Arthur of Connaught announced at a recent court of governors of Middlesex Hospital that an institute of radio-therapy for the treatment of cancer, the gift of Mr. E. W. Meyerstein, would be opened shortly.

The splendid sum of £25,000 was subscribed by the guests at a dinner at the Mansion House presided over by the Lord Mayor, Sir George Broadbridge, on April 27, for the National Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System in response to an appeal by the Duke of Kent, who was the guest of honour.

The Duke spoke of the strain and anxiety of modern life and the resultant illnesses which were to be found in almost every home. He referred also to the offer of the Rockefeller Foundation of £120,000 for the hospital's new research department, provided a similar sum was raised in this country. His Royal Highness described the offer as one which did credit to the challengers and which we could not fail to take up without dishonour.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Merseyside Hospitals' Council, held at the Liverpool Town Hall on a recent date, Mr. W. Sutcliffe Rhodes, Chairman of the David Lewis Northern Hospital since 1934, was elected Chairman of the Merseyside Hospitals' Council in succession to Lord Cozens-Hardy, who has been Chairman of the Council since its inception in 1927.

On condition that the money is devoted to the erection of a new wing for medical cases, an anonymous donor has given £10,000 to the Wrexham and East Denbighshire War Memorial Hospital.

At the annual meeting of the Central London Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, the Chairman, Mr. Carmichael Thomas, referred to the satisfaction felt generally that the nurses were now comfortably installed in their new home, which had recently been completed at a cost of £34,000, and that further progress with the building scheme had been made possible by the acquisition of the adjoining site at a cost of £7,600.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE CONGRESS.

Miss Gullan and Miss Bushby are sitting at the receipt of custom every day at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, issuing tickets for the forthcoming Congress, to open at the Central Hall, Westminster, on July 19th, next.

Nurses who are members of Associations affiliated to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and who wish to register as members of the Congress should write to either the President or Secretary of their Association, asking for an Application Form and a signed Identification Form.

On receiving these the applicant should bring or forward them to the Secretary, Congress Arrangements Committee, 39, Portland Place, W.1, with her 10s. registration fee, when she will receive her Congress ticket.

Early application for tickets will be very helpful.

PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

"A SHORT OUTLINE OF NURSING HISTORY."

(Concluded.)

Our review of Miss Gladys Stevenson's "A Short Outline of Nursing History" in our April issue brought us down to the end of the Middle Ages, there follows a short chapter "Following the Middle Ages" dealing with "the beginning of the Civic Relief of Poverty," and the "Dark Period in Nursing," "The altered conditions in nursing brought about by the suppression of the monastic Orders were specially striking in England where under the violent King Henry VIII the closing of the monasteries was carried out in a very drastic manner, and it is believed more than one hundred hospitals were wiped out of existence, and no alternative provisions were made for the sick poor."

"The records and history of monastic Orders of women in England indicate that whatever the faults of the system may have been, great sweetness, charm and usefulness were found in the interior life. In buildings and gardens of beauty, activities abounding in gracious culture, kindness, and loving charity went on. The loss of this system left English nursing in the depths for 200 years, until after Florence Nightingale's day. This is called the Dark Period. The hospital nurse was now at her lowest ebb. Strong drink was her weakness, and her only refuge from the drudgery of life. She was usually a middle-aged woman of unclean lips."

Charles Dickens represented this class of person in "Sairey Gamp," in one of his novels, and in the preface he states "Mrs. Gamp was a fair representation of the hired attendant on the sick poor."

In 1840 Elizabeth Fry organised a group of women who received a few hours training, daily, at Guy's Hospital. The Anglican Church developed several Sisterhoods, which took a prominent interest in nursing (notably the Sisterhood of St. John the Evangelist) which had trained workers ready to go with Miss Nightingale to the Crimea.

In America, the oldest hospital still existing on the American continent was built by Cortez who conquered Mexico about 1520.

Two groups of heroic Frenchwomen went as nurses to Canada, one a group of Augustinian Sisters, the other composed of devoted women under the leadership of Jeanne Mance who became very famous. Wealthy friends in France enabled her to build a hospital, and the present-day Hostels Dieu of Quebec and Montreal are the fruits of these early beginnings. Jeanne Mance is affectionately remembered in Canada. Her statue stands in a prominent part of Montreal City, and her beautiful portrait hangs in the Hotel Dieu.

In Germany the Order of Kaiserswerth Deaconesses, now a world-wide organisation, was founded by Frederike Fliedner, aided and supported by her husband Pastor Thëodor Fliedner. The Pastor taught the Deaconesses in training at Kaiserswerth ethics and religious doctrine, and his wife taught practical nursing. It was to Kaiserswerth that Florence Nightingale went in her desire for training in nursing, and remained for four months.

The Founder of Modern Nursing.

The story of Florence Nightingale can only be briefly touched upon here. Her work for the sick soldiers in the Crimea made her world famous, but even more important was her lifelong work on her return home. At St. Thomas's Hospital, where with the gift of a grateful nation she founded the famous Nightingale Training School for Nurses, the graduates of which became the pioneer heads of Nursing Schools all over the world. Apart from the establishment of trained nursing her chief work was for the health and welfare of the British Army.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)