

PUBLIC HEALTH—A VERY VALUABLE SECTION.

We are indebted to Miss E. Ivett, Hon. Secretary of the Congress Committee of the Association of Queen's Superintendents, which is affiliated to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain for the following account of one of the most instructive Sessions of the Congress.

THE QUEEN'S INSTITUTE OF DISTRICT NURSING AT THE CONGRESS.

The Association of Queen's Superintendents are indeed indebted to the President of the National Council of Nurses for the facilities granted to them by the Congress Committee which enabled them to have the opportunity of discussing with so many overseas and foreign visitors domiciliary nursing at its best.

A place for a stall was allocated to this Association and nearly every day during the week the President found time to make a little visit. The background of the stall was a great artistic achievement designed by Miss Emuss (Superintendent, Liverpool). Three Queen's Superintendents or Nurses were kept busy daily from 8.30 a.m.—5 p.m. discussing the work, training, and equipment. The General and Midwifery Bags were an endless source of interest, and led to much friendly discussion and exchange of methods. The Provident Method of Support was perhaps the most outstanding topic of enquiry. Much "Provident" literature was distributed, and will no doubt be found in many towns and cities overseas ere now. The keeping of records, case, time books, etc., all found their places on this stall. Photographs of Queen's Nurses on the occasion of the recent visit to Buckingham Palace when 1,400 were inspected by Queen Mary were also of special interest. An unique opportunity was given "Queen's" Nurses which they gladly and gratefully utilised to the utmost.

On a platform decorated with delphiniums in the dark and light blue of the "Queen's" Colours, was the first Queen's Nurse—Dame Rosalind Paget, D.B.E., now a member of the Council of the Queen's Institute, when the three papers were read on the Thursday morning session devoted to Domiciliary Nursing. Miss E. F. Colburn, Superintendent, Queen's Institute of District Nursing in Ireland, dealt with the Queen's Nurses at Work, indicating types of districts, and conditions of service, etc. Miss J. P. Watt, Inspector for London, dealt in her paper on District Nursing with the training of Queen's Nurses, the conditions of affiliation of the local associations, opportunities for promotion in the counties, homes, etc. From Miss A. G. Mitchell, East Sussex County Superintendent, was a contribution dealing with work in the counties where combined work is undertaken, Inspector of Midwives, Superintendent Health Visitor, is often then part of the duties of the County Superintendent. Miss Mitchell felt that the ideal service was that of combined work which embraces Health Visitor and School Nurse in rural areas.

Demonstrations of the General and Midwifery Bags and explanation of nursing technique were given at this session.

The room was full to overflowing when three films were shown covering the extent of District Nursing. The daily routine of a Queen's Home, the usefulness of a loan collection of nursing requisites, as well as co-operation between a well-organised district nursing service and the local hospitals was seen. A film specially prepared for the Congress by the Huddersfield Nursing Association gave the routine care of an expectant mother from the day of booking. The nursing visit to mother and baby during the puerperium was a revelation to many unfamiliar with domiciliary midwifery.

At least 30 visitors from abroad were so interested in the work that at their request arrangements were made for them to do "morning rounds" with nurses, and in addition to the 64 foreign visitors taken to the Sir Thomas Lipton's Memorial Home, Southgate, where a delightful tea was provided by the Committee, other parties visited some of the London training homes to see District Rooms and to learn at first hand what provision was made for the comfort and welfare of "Queen's" Nurses.

It was, indeed, a worth-while week—much was given—but much more was learnt.

NURSING ECHOES.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 149 nurses to be Queen's Nurses; 104 in England, 5 in Wales, 31 in Scotland and 9 in Ireland. We are always glad to receive these lists, and to know that more Queen's Nurses have been added to the Roll of these most useful public servants. We know of no nurses better qualified to bring comfort into the homes of the poor in time of sickness than the Queen's Nurses who as registered nurses, with six months' special training subsequently, are well qualified to bring skilled nursing and to teach practical hygiene in the homes which they visit. The reputation which Queen's Nurses have justly earned is second to none.

GIFTS OF "NIGHTINGALE BRICKS."

Naturally, our colleagues from overseas, who were recently in London for the I.C.N. Congress, have been immensely interested in the "Nightingale Bricks" donated by the British College of Nurses, and many requests have been made for them.

As the supply of bricks from Miss Nightingale's now demolished home in South Street, London, is limited, it has been generally agreed that they should be reserved for gifts to the nurse training schools of hospitals throughout the world. The following gifts have been recently made: (1) By request of Miss Mabel Hersey, of Canada, for presentation to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal. (2) By request of Miss May Ashton, of Perth, to be given to the Perth Hospital, Western Australia. (3) By request of Miss A. E. MacDonald, President of the Nurses' Association, for the Gordon Hospital, Plymouth, U.S.A. (4) By request of Miss Elsie Hudson for the new Nurses Home of the General Hospital, Barbados. These bricks, we are told, are of the utmost interest to the Nursing Staffs of the hospitals to which they are allotted, and arouse keen enquiry into all matters relating to Miss Nightingale's life and work.

It is specially interesting to note that the bricks recently donated go to Canada, Western Australia, and Barbados the United States of America.

So far, nurses in the home country are apparently little interested in these mementoes.

We were pleased to note last week that bouquets reposed at the base of Miss Nightingale's statue in Waterloo Place, made possible at last by the removal of the box into which she disappeared for protection during the Coronation.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)