

appoint her. The Metropolitan Poor Act of 1867, while it effected some necessary reforms, did not make proper provisions for segregating the sick from the healthy in workhouses, nor did it—and this was the worst blow of all for Florence Nightingale—do anything at all for workhouse nursing. On this occasion Florence had failed to get what she wanted, and she knew it.

The last great battle in which Florence Nightingale was engaged was what was generally called "the Battle of the Nurses." She opposed the aim of the British Nurses' Association, which held its first general meeting in February, 1888, with Princess Christian as President, to unite all qualified British Nurses in membership of a recognised profession and to provide for their registration.\* She fought hard against the application of the Association for the Royal Charter granted by the Privy Council in 1893. But later she wondered whether she had been wrong. "Her clear vision, her honesty, overcame her fighting spirit and she admitted in a letter to Mr. Rathbone that forty years hence registration might not be preposterous."\*

The inscription over the grave of Florence Nightingale in the beautiful country churchyard at East Wellow in Hampshire is simply "F. N. Born 1820, Died 1910," but each year the number of pilgrims testifies to the increasing realisation of one of the greatest women the world has ever known, in whose interest it is the pride of trained nurses to have had so large a share.

M. B.

#### THE WRIGHT KINGSFORD HOME FOR CHILDREN.

There is no finer example of what can grow, under wise guidance, out of a very small seed than that which we have in the Wright Kingsford Home for Children. It is a lovely monument this, in its spacious grounds, to the self sacrifice and life work of two nurses, but it is only the visible witness to their work. That which lies behind the visible has its effect on generations, and here many children are given opportunity to live happy useful lives who would otherwise have had little chance of setting out to fight life's battle with good physical health.

The Report for the year shows that a hundred and eighty-two children have been in the Home during the past year for varying periods. Those who left were provided for in other ways. It is interesting to note in these days, when dental hygiene is so much in the foreground, that the Dental Officer for Finchley pays a special tribute to the condition of the teeth of the children. This speaks volumes for their health, for there is no surer index than the teeth of the physical condition of a child. To quote from the Report "Children are the living flowers of the Earth, but if the soil lacks nourishment the blossoms will be poor," and there is no lack of food, sunshine and fresh air at this Bambino Castle. May it go on from strength to strength.

#### A CALENDAR FOR 1938.

Autumn is now upon us, and soon we shall be searching for the gifts which it is our joy to send to friends at Christmas. One which is always sure to give pleasure is the Calendar compiled by Miss Isabel Macdonald, Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, with unerring artistic skill and literary judgment. This year "Women of the Profession of Letters," give us each day of their best. The primary object of the Calendar, moreover, is to enable cheques to be sent to sick and aged nurses, cheques to secure for them a happy Christmas. So let everyone hurry to possess at least one calendar, before, as usually happens, they are sold out before Christmas.

\* The Editor has filed an Address by Miss Nightingale, presented to the Matrons' Council of Great Britain, which in this connection she hopes to publish at an early date. It is of great historic value.

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

### Women's Section of Empire Exhibition.

It is announced that the Queen has consented to become Patron of the Women's Section of the Empire Exhibition, which opens in Glasgow next May. A committee is planning the Women's Section at the exhibition, which will show women's achievements in art, crafts, domestic science, welfare work, literature and music, and many other fields. It will be housed in a separate pavilion covering 10,000 square feet.

We hope a Nursing exhibit will be included. To judge from many we have seen there is a vast field of interest and instruction not only for the profession but the public in connection with highly skilled scientific nursing, and in Scotland there are many able nurses who can organise such a section.

Queen Mary occupies a unique place in the University of Oxford, for she was the first woman ever enrolled among its honorary graduates, and she had a most enthusiastic reception when she visited Oxford recently to lay the foundation stone of the new Bodleian extension, pronounced by the Bishop of Oxford to be a true act of devotion performed "unto the greater glory of God, Who alone giveth knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom."

It is reported that Queen Elisabeth of Belgium has given her patronage to the society which has undertaken the work of restoring the buildings of the Beguinage at Bruges. One of the finest gables of the convent is now being restored, and more elaborate plans are being prepared.

This beautiful old building is well known to many nurses, who never fail when in Bruges to pay it a visit.

The historic farm of La Belle Alliance, on the battlefield of Waterloo, has recently changed hands and was sold to a farmer for about £820.

The farm, where on June 18th, 1815, Wellington and Blücher greeted each other as victors, is protected by law. La Belle Alliance was built in 1770. After the battle of Waterloo it was acquired by a Scot who subsequently sold it to a Belgian farmer.

The Report to the Council of the League of Nations of the Advisory Committee of Experts on Slavery has been published by Messrs. Allen and Unwin (price 3s.).

The International Guild of Hospital Librarians, 48, Queen's Gardens, W.2, of which Mrs. M. E. Roberts is the Hon. Secretary, is doing much-appreciated work as those book lovers who have been hospital patients know. How they look forward to the weekly visit of the ladies who so regularly and systematically visit the wards, bringing with them a supply of books, new, up-to-date books, mostly large print also, for these experienced workers know that it is books printed in large type which are in demand. Biographies, books of travel, good novels, or light literature are yours for the asking.

It should be emphasised that the books which these Good Samaritans offer for you are really worth reading.

"Many of the newspapers to-day are," they say, "their adversaries because they are so bad. They are bad because their main object is to increase their circulation, and huge circulations can only be achieved by appealing to a stupid majority."

Not so the Guild of Hospital Librarians, and they earn the gratitude of thousands of patients in consequence.

Mrs. John Galsworthy, who awarded prizes for handwriting to L.C.C. schools last year to the value of £90 5s., has offered a similar sum for competition this year.

Here is a public benefactor!

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