

**"THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING" STALL
AT THE CONGRESS.**

Miss Isabel Macdonald very kindly permitted copies of her Calendar, "Twelve Good Companions: A Daily Anthology," to be sold for the benefit of "Miss Nightingale's Church," on the "B.J.N." stall at the recent International Congress of Nurses, by which a profit of £5 14s. was made and forwarded to Mr. Crosfield, who is the Treasurer of the Restoration Appeal Fund.

Mr. Crosfield writes us: "Thank you for your letter and cheque for £5 14s., for which we are all most grateful. May I thank Miss Macdonald for her generosity? It is a great encouragement to us. The notice in the *Times*, probably inspired by the importance attached to your meeting last month and the visit to Wellow Church, has brought us some very helpful donations. We have now collected more than £1,000, a good result, all things considered, this year, so we have now put in hand repair work on the North Wall. Once more thanking Miss Macdonald and yourself."

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

TAKING THE WATERS.

The Cruel Nature of Chronic Rheumatism.

Sir Kingsley Wood, the Minister of Health, recently visited Harrogate and laid the foundation stone of the extensions and improvements which are being made to the Royal Baths and Winter Gardens, at a cost of £68,000.

Sir Kingsley Wood said that "taking the waters" was increasing rather than waning in popularity in this country notwithstanding the fierce competition of drugs, gland extracts, vaccines and serums. For centuries many disorders had been recognised as specially amenable to hydrology, and the great baths and thermal stations of Roman times were silent witnesses of the faith of past civilisations in the curative powers of "airs, places and waters." This belief was still firmly maintained by many to-day and millions of relieved patients could testify to their value, but he believed that we were only beginning in this country to appreciate the benefits of treatment by natural medicinal waters and by baths in their power at the beginnings of certain diseases to restore the patient to health and normality. As Minister of Health, Sir Kingsley Wood said he was particularly concerned, both because of the cruel nature of chronic rheumatic diseases and the enormous industrial and other invalidity they caused in this country. He was glad to know that much research work was being done and that further provision was being made for their treatment. Harrogate with the considerable extension now being made and with the expert advice and attention of many able medical practitioners, would be able to offer first-rate facilities for treatment for many diseases.

The Council of the British Medical Association has decided to appoint a public relations officer, and has selected Mr. A. W. Haslett for the position, to take up his duties on October 4th. Mr. Haslett was educated at Winchester and Cambridge, graduating in 1928 with first-class honours in science and history.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NURSES.

MONDAY, JULY 19th. SECTION 1, SESSION 1.

We print below, abridged, the extremely interesting paper presented to the International Congress of Nurses at the Central Hall, Westminster, on the afternoon of Monday, July 19th, in Section I, Session I, when Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., occupied the chair.

PRE-NURSING EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION.

(Abridged.)

By Mlle. GABRIELLE REVELARD,
Ecole d'Infirmières Tournai, Belgium.

"Although right action is better than knowledge, yet knowledge must precede action."—CHARLEMAGNE.

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration a question which has aroused considerable controversy, the importance of which seems to have escaped the principals of large schools for nursing.

My experience, acquired in diverse and varied circles, emphasises the certainty that I have that the theory of the "preparatory year" is the formula which sooner or later must unite our schools if they intend to assure the maximum of result and avoid waste of time, of strength and of life; and that this solution is of particular importance in countries where the profession is recently organised and the age of entry seventeen or eighteen.

Let us begin by examining (1) The opportuneness of this section, its pedagogic, social and economic importance; (2) its essential curriculum and its organisation; and (3) our conclusions.

(1.)

At the Sixth International Congress, held in Rome on the 28th, 29th and 30th December, 1936, Technical Instruction enunciated its definite requirements, and from amongst these, let us take those which appear to us particularly adapted to the question which occupies our attention. (I would draw your attention to the fact that the Belgian Schools of Nursing depend, amongst others, on the Ministry for Technical Instruction.)

It expresses the desire:

(a) That Technical Education, whilst developing in perfect accord with the economic realities by virtue of which it acts, should tend to give to those engaged in technical work a general and social culture in accordance with the importance of the tasks they are called upon to perform in modern society;

(d) that school age be prolonged, the last year being devoted to finding out the real professional bent and to a general pre-apprenticeship;

(g) that the study of the human factor be pursued and the professional bent be generalised with the object of avoiding premature specialisation.

The Congress considering . . . that the ascertainment of professional aptitude should be based on a knowledge of the entire personality of the candidate and should leave open the maximum of possibility for the resource and capacity for adaptation of the young, and that woman, the guardian of the home, ought to be, whatever her social or professional position, capable of fulfilling her family and household duties, expresses the wish:

That in every country instruction in domestic and house-keeping subjects be rendered compulsory in scholastic establishments.

Whatever be the attitude adopted with regard to those desiderata, it cannot be denied that the convictions of all those who in many a land guide the opinion of the public are in accordance with that of the legislator as regards woman's education and work.

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