

Eskestuna during the epidemic of 1935 and 1936 that the morbidity among those who had consumed non-sterilized milk produced in areas where the disease was raging was between seven and eight times as great as in the rest of the population.

Lastly, the occurrence in Sweden of well authenticated cases of re-infection of one and the same patient, who on both occasions developed paralysis, suggests that one attack cannot always be trusted to confer lasting immunity on its victim. These, then, are among some of the most interesting observations recently made concerning poliomyelitis. They may not all be confirmed by subsequent events. But it is evident that the net is yearly being more closely drawn round this scourge of humanity, and that in the near future we may know so much that the prevention or cure of the disease is well within sight. (*Communicated by the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, 12, rue Newton, Paris, XVIe.*)

THE RESULT OF PERSISTENT EFFORTS.

Mr. C. Bartlett, President of the Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers Union, in his Presidential Address to the Annual Conference at Guildford in July said:—

"There is one other matter to which I feel I ought to refer, and which is of immense importance to our own organisation.

"It is that of the Recruitment and Training of Nurses.

"As you will have observed from the report of the National Executive Council, and from time to time in that body's minutes, there have been numerous meetings of the Joint Committee set up by the Mental Hospitals' Association, the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, and this Union, and it is indeed pleasing to be able to report that as a result of persistent efforts representation has at last been given to each of these bodies on a Sub-Committee appointed by the Inter-Departmental Committee set up by the Minister of Health. To this Sub-Committee has been entrusted the task of advising on questions relating to the Mental Nursing Service."

We hope that nurses who are members of professional associations will note this satisfactory result of persistent efforts on the part of the Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union.

STRICTER SUPERVISION OF MEDICAL STUDENTS.

It is significant to note that whilst the General Nursing Council is relaxing control of nursing education, the General Medical Council is hitching up its authority in relation to medical students.

The General Medical Council, who celebrate their 80th birthday this year, will shortly bring into force a new set of regulations to govern the entry of students for the medical profession.

Until now, the Council have relied upon the various training schools to see that their pupils are of the right type. But the fact that about 50 per cent. of the medical students fail in their first attempt at the final examination has indicated the need for a change of method.

All medical students who enter a school in or after October this year will have to comply with the provisions now drawn up by the General Medical Council. They include more advanced preliminary examinations.

In future, also, the register of medical students will be much more comprehensive than hitherto. It will be compiled directly from the books of the training schools instead of being made up from individual registration forms.

For the first time in their history, therefore, the ruling body of the medical profession will be able to keep a close check on the entry of new members, the course of training they have undergone, and how they fared in the examinations.

THE FAIRY TRADITION IN THE HIGHLANDS.

"The Fairy Tradition in the Highlands and Some Psychological Problems," by Miss Isabel Macdonald, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, comes to us with an interesting history. In sending it Miss Macdonald writes: "A doctor—who from the start wished that his name should not appear—who liked very much the idea of our Christmas grants, gave me £500 to form an endowment for some of them. I said we would add at least £50 to it, for he has given this as a memorial to his wife (who was a member of the Association) because he says that it would appeal to her more than anything he can think of.

"He wrote of her once as a great lady, a descendant of Captain Hawkins, so that she could not be otherwise, and if you want to know what my wife was like read "Lorna Doone," or Barrie's "Little Minister." From that sentence I took the dedication To the Memory of "A Great Lady."

"He courted her in the fairy country, and at a time when the ghillies could still see the White Lady coming down Glenfinnan, and his wife had seen the White Boat on Loch Morar, and heard the Schoolmaster of Kinlockailart walking in his garden."

No one but a Scotswoman could have written "The Fairy Tradition," and perhaps no one but Miss Isabel Macdonald could have penned this booklet so full of wise lore, so aware of this "mystery knowledge," suggesting that "the best line of approach to the subject, and the simplest attitude to adopt towards it, may be compassed in one short sentence that holds within it truth for many an aspect of life besides that which concerns the Fairies—'There are more things in Heaven and earth Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.' Certain it is that the Fairy Tradition has found place in the mythologies of both east and west, and in these islands of ours it has had its place in folklore throughout many centuries.

"The fairies have been described under many names. They are the Daoine Shi, or People of Peace; the Still Folk, the Hill Folk, the Wee Folk and the Gude Folk.

"In the more isolated parts of the Highlands, where people can still live in what one might call the folk spirit, there are to be found those who claim to be seers of a life that lies behind nature, but they are silent in the presence of unbelievers. If you chance to meet them and they recognise in you one who has not banished altogether the belief in the fairies as beneath the dignity of human intelligence, they will tell of their own visions of the Daoine Shi; they will relate the stories handed down from their fathers and grandfathers, but, if you ask that these be repeated again when you chance to meet the narrator in the company of one of your acquaintances, you will find that the entertainment which you had perhaps promised to the latter is not forthcoming."

We must not quote more from this fascinating booklet, but refer it in its entirety to our readers. The price is but 1s., or 1s. 2d. post free, and there are good reasons why you should expend this small sum; it will bring you a booklet of extraordinary interest; it is a worthy memorial of "A Great Lady"; the profits arising from its sale will be added to a Fund to form an endowment for sending out cheques to sick and aged nurses at Christmas time for comfort and cheer, and, lastly, you must keep in the good graces of "The People of Peace." Do not refuse the fairies.

Copies are obtainable from the offices of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7. Hasten to procure one or more before they are sold out.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)