

rendered to British women in bringing before the House of Lords the British Nationality and Aliens Bill.

For the sympathy and justice embodied in your proposal to restore to British women the right to retain their nationality on marriage to an alien, the President and Council unanimously ask your Lordship to accept this expression of their gratitude.

I have the honour to remain,
Your Lordship's obedient servant,
ALICE STEWART BRYSON,
Secretary.

31, EGERTON CRESCENT, S.W.3.
25th September, 1938.

DEAR MADAM,

I beg to acknowledge, with many thanks, your letter of the 22nd inst. I very much appreciate the courtesy of your President and Council, and I thank them warmly for the resolution which they have been good enough to pass. May I add that it is my intention to re-introduce my Bill during the next session of Parliament, and to press its claims upon the notice of the Government?

Yours very truly,
ALNESS.

FIXTURE.

October 22nd.—Monthly Meeting of the Council. 2.30 p.m.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL NAVAL NURSING SERVICE RESERVE.

The Secretary of the Admiralty announces that a scheme of personal enrolment has been instituted in connection with Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service Reserve which is maintained for the purpose of supplementing Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service in the event of War or a National Emergency. The enrolment of nurses will not involve any interference with their civilian professional duties. Members of existing Official Nursing Reserves should not apply. Nurses will be required to undertake to report for nursing duties in Naval Hospitals and Hospital Ships when called upon in the event of a national emergency.

Intending applicants should be under 45 years of age and State Registered if training was completed after June, 1925. They should write to the Admiralty, S.W.1, for the necessary copies of the Regulations and form of application.

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE SCHOLARSHIP.

In June we announced that certain affiliated Associations to the National Council of Nurses had, together with the £91 1s. 9d. in hand last year, subscribed the £250 required for a Florence Nightingale Scholarship for 1938-1939, and a scholar has been selected.

We have received in addition £10 from the Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League, the members of which ask that it may give financial support to a student. This generous gift will be greatly appreciated by the National Council of Nurses, as it is well to have a balance in hand.

We have also to acknowledge with thanks the very generous gift of £20 in support of the Florence Nightingale Scholarship from the Bradford Royal Infirmary Nurses' League. Thus the deficit of this year's collection has been reduced to £50.

REVIEW.

"THIS IS MY LIFE."*

This book by Dame Agnes Hunt, R.R.C., to which Sir Arthur Stanley contributes a sympathetic Foreword, is the record of an unconventional, but very valuable piece of work for cripples, carried out in conjunction with the late Sir Robert Jones, whose orthopædic surgery is of world-wide renown. Not only did they treat and care for cripples over a wide area, but Sir Robert, says Miss Hunt, "was not yet satisfied, and kept asking when I proposed to teach the badly-crippled adolescents to earn their living." He pointed out that we had proved over and over again that some of them could be made self-supporting.

"Why should we not do the rest?" "You have," he said, "in a leisurely and haphazard way, taught and added to your staff many such boys and girls. Then why not make a really big effort?" At the same time Dr. Eichholz, the Chief Medical Adviser to the Board of Education, dinned the need for such training into my unwilling ears.

Ultimately, Miss Hunt collected four boys, already being trained in the boot and blacksmiths' shops and two girls from the splint-making department, and solemnly informed them that they were "The Shropshire Orthopædic Training School for Cripples." They were suitably impressed but wished to know what happened next. "As this was more than I could tell them the meeting adjourned. I put a wet towel on my head and tried to form plans."

We all know how the plan created so casually grew and prospered. Miss Hunt had been assured that the Board of Education would pay an instruction fee of £16 10s. a year, but what about the trainees maintenance, clothes and pocket money? She decided that 25s. a week would cover expenses. She then wrote to all the County Councils and Poor Law Guardians and offered them this splendid opportunity of making their cripples self supporting.

"The replies of these bodies," says Miss Hunt, "absolutely flabbergasted me and, before you could say 'knife' we had one hundred and fifty names on the waiting list and not even a tent to put them in"; however, difficulties are made to be surmounted, and again in November of that same year Miss Hunt's hip again broke down, and Sir Robert Jones, who came hurriedly all across England to operate, warned her that she must stay in bed for at least two months; sick and worried she prayed as she had never prayed before. This prayer was answered early in 1929, when Mr. Rhaiadr Jones and his wife were appointed Manager and Matron of the Derwen Cripples' Training College. "Thankfully," writes Miss Hunt, "I let the reins slip into his most capable hands; thankfully I surrendered the Matronship into his wife's most kindly keeping. Any visitor to the Derwen Cripples Training College now will agree that it is the happiest home imaginable. Ninety per cent. of the boys and girls we have trained are earning their own living, some in the workshops of the College, and others (the large majority) in the open market."

That has been Dame Agnes Hunt's lifework—work that she can look back upon with unfeigned satisfaction. One wonders how much her own loveless childhood and ill-health are responsible for the sympathy and understanding which she later showed to the cripples she befriended. She writes: "My poor mother disliked children intensely; disliked them when they were coming, during their arrival, and most intensely after they had arrived. At two weeks old we were consigned to the nursery and the bottle."

What can be said of the upbringing of children when a daughter is able to write: "My mother and father spent a good deal of time away from home, which was lucky for us?"
Poor children!

* Messrs. Blackie & Son, Ltd., 50, Old Bailey, E.C.4.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)