

South Australia. There are also attractive groups of nurses in different hospitals and one is impressed by the great neatness and uniformity of their uniform. We are glad, too, to have the portraits of the Members of the Centenary Committee who compiled the volume. There are pictures of different hospitals and a very pleasing one of the beautiful headquarters of the R.B.N.A. in Adelaide. We like the sketch of a nurse, sitting sedately with folded hands in her cane rocking chair, while from below it there rise the sulphur fumes, and winged bacteria are seen escaping in all directions from her garments.

Altogether the South Australian Trained Nurses' Centenary Committee have made a most valuable contribution to Nursing History, reflecting much credit, not only upon those who have compiled it but upon the profession in their State; they have succeeded in indicating in almost every page the spirit, intelligence and energy that have characterised those who have built up the profession of Nursing in South Australia.

We have sent for a few copies of the volume which will shortly be obtainable at the office. At present we do not know the cost of each copy but, from what we are told, it is likely to be by no means prohibitive.

LECTURE.

THE KNIGHTS OF THE TEMPLE

By MAJOR RIGG, O.B.E., F.S.A.

Following on a lecture on the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem and a visit to the Headquarters of the Order at Clerkenwell, we asked Major Rigg to give us one on the companion order of chivalry to that, the Knights Templars. It proved to be most interesting although it had less relationship with Nursing History than the former. Information was given of the foundation of a hospital in the Valley of Jehoshaphat in the ninth century. It was a large institution with twelve houses for patients and possessed of its own gardens, vineyards and cornfields. In the hospital were an abbot and monks of the order of St. Benedict. Next we were told of the hospital founded for Latin patients and maintained chiefly by the merchants of Amalfi; it was devoted chiefly to the nursing of those who had been robbed and injured by infidels. Major Rigg traced the story of the foundation of the Knights Templars, both in the Holy Land and in England and referred to the enormous influence they had in shaping European history. He told of the tragedies attending their downfall at last, which arose through the jealousy of Philip IV and Pope Boniface when the Order had become exceedingly rich as well as powerful.

194, Queen's Gate,
London, S.W. 7.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.



MISS L. DAW,
Matron, Adelaide Hospital.



MRS. E. C. W. MARTIN,
Lady Consul, R.B.N.A.

A VITAL PRINCIPLE.

The following correspondence has passed between the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association and the General Nursing Council for England and Wales relative to the split Preliminary Examination.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

July 25th, 1938.

DEAR MADAM,—Relative to the recent decision of the General Nursing Council to divide the Preliminary State Examination, we have received letters and enquiries from members of this Association expressing anxiety on suggestions which have arisen that the teaching of Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene should be handed over to the teaching profession. Nurses, who have communicated with us, hold that the teaching of these subjects should remain as hitherto with members of the Medical and Nursing Professions. They consider that those only are to be regarded as competent to teach such subjects as they relate to nursing, or, in other words, to teach them with the necessary reference in mind to changes that arise in different conditions of sickness and ill-health. Apart from this, the nurses hold that if matters are arranged otherwise and the teaching of these sciences is removed wholly or in part from the Medical and Nursing Professions, not only will the latter suffer loss of prestige, but a prerogative and responsibility, on which many members of it set value, will be lost. From the economic aspect also there is the consideration that members of another profession will benefit to the exclusion of a large number of nurses well qualified to hold the honourable position of Sister Tutor.

We shall be glad if you will inform us whether the General Nursing Council are establishing any rules to safeguard the profession and its members in these matters, or whether it is prepared to sanction the teaching of the subjects referred to by other than members of the professions of Medicine and Nursing.

Yours sincerely,

ISABEL MACDONALD, Secretary.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.
September 28th, 1938.

DEAR MADAM,—I am directed to inform you that your letter of July 25th relating to the teaching of Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene was placed before the Education and Examination Committee at its last meeting.

I am directed to reply that the regulations in regard to the division of the Preliminary State Examination have not yet been completed, but that the General Nursing Council are bearing in mind the best interests of the Nursing Profession.

Yours faithfully, G. E. DAVIES, Registrar.

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