

Endsleigh Gardens, N.W.1, delivered a very comprehensive Lecture on "The Typhoid Group of Fevers" which was acclaimed with enthusiasm by a large gathering of Fellows and Members and friends, after which light refreshments were served and Dr. Cooke kindly answered enquiries on a variety of points of interest.

A Lecture on "The Dysenteries" will be delivered by Dr. W. E. Cooke, Associate Physician, Hospital for Tropical Diseases, on Tuesday, March 22nd, 1938, at 8 p.m., illustrated by lantern slides, to be followed by light refreshments. Fellows and Members will be cordially welcomed without further notice.

DEATHS AND DISASTERS ON THE ROADS.

The Bishop of Winchester (Dr. Cyril Garbett), whose protest in the House of Lords on the deaths and disasters on the roads inspired the Government to set up a Committee of Inquiry, has written to the Secretary of the British College of Nurses, who forwarded to him a copy of the communications sent to the Minister of Transport on the injuries sustained by many of its members.

DEAR MADAM,

Thank you for your letter. I am very much impressed by the facts you have sent me.

Yours sincerely,

CYRIL WINTON.

VISIT POSTPONED.

It has been found necessary to postpone the visit of the Administration Class to Dr. Barnardo's Girls' Village Home and Hospital, which was arranged to take place on March 10th, owing to an outbreak of measles. When arrangements are made later for this visit Fellows and Members will be notified in due course.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.

Looking up some data in the *Nursing Record and Hospital World*, as the B.J.N. was named in 1897, we came upon the following paragraph:—

BOW, WOW, WOW!

The trained nurse! The dailies, the weeklies, the monthlies—she is the burning question of the hour—in the columns of them all she is being discussed. Mrs. Watson "an old nurse," deploras her modernity in the *National Review*, and by way of reply, Miss Nancy Paul, with the best intentions, "damns with faint praise" in the same periodical. Lady Priestley makes one blush for one's calling in the *Nineteenth Century*. Mr. Malcolm Morris trembles before the "New Nurse" in the editorial columns of the *Practitioner* and quotes copiously from the American press in support of his views. The Editor of *St. James' Gazette* points out the dexterity with which the Nurse "arrives at the altar" by the "new cut," and above all this clamour, the strong, logical, convincing views expressed by Mrs. Alec Tweedie in the current issue of the *Queen*, in an article headed "District Nursing—Cottage Helps," alone rings true. She alone of all the voluble critics sympathises with the Trained Nurse. She is the only one, therefore, who grasps the real significance of her economic condition, and suggests a remedy. We hope Mrs. Tweedie, who is herself the daughter and sister of eminent physicians, will continue her interest in this vexed question of the "status" of the Trained Nurse, and will use her brilliant abilities to place the truth concerning them before the public.

And still, 40 years after, we are wrestling with this vexed question!

A GLIMPSE OF MODERN PROGRESS IN PRISON REFORM.

A VISIT TO HOLLOWAY PRISON HOSPITAL.

In these days when progress in Prison Reform is receiving the earnest attention of the Government, the members of the Administration Class of the British College of Nurses felt that they were especially privileged when permitted on Thursday, February 10th, to visit the Hospital and Departments of Holloway Prison.

The casual wayfarer would scarcely associate the stone castle-like towers they pass in the Camden Road with a Prison, yet such is the outward appearance of Holloway Prison, standing high with a sunny aspect.

On arriving at the main gate the reflection involuntarily arises on the mysteries of human nature that bring so many tragic souls to be restrained here. There is little time, however, for such rumination as the members are at once courteously admitted, and after signing the Visitors' Book, are most kindly received by the Nursing Matron-in-Chief, who conducts the party first to the Hospital buildings, explaining *en route* that the very fine façade of the main entrance is a replica of Warwick Castle, that the Prison was built about one hundred years ago, is star shape with seven wings or halls of four stories, each wing containing a different type of prisoner.

The Hospital Buildings are reached, both convicted prisoners and persons on remand are accommodated here. There is every modern arrangement for the welfare of the expectant mother; adjoining this ward is the labour room, where a Doctor and a Certified Midwife are in attendance at all confinements. One wing is allocated to prisoners suffering from Venereal Disease; the numbers, considering the type from which this population is drawn, is exceptionally low. Holloway Prison has the largest prison hospital for women in England and contains some 104 beds. The wing is divided into wards which contain 7 to 17 beds and single rooms. A very striking feature is the brightness of the wards and rooms, due partly to the very sunny aspect of the building, the general cleanliness and the infinite pains which are taken to have bright painted walls, pictures of happy subjects and flowers; the equipment of the wards compares well with many general hospitals, the single rooms are furnished with hospital bedstead, washstand, electric light and electric bell, and the floor is covered with linoleum; dressing-table with mirror, personal knick-knacks and photos are permitted.

Then finally there is the crèche where mothers may attend their own babies and are taught mothercraft. This modern nursery has a most heartening atmosphere of brightness and comfort where babies play and thrive. Mother and baby are kept together for two months after the birth, after which the mother does her usual work, but is allowed to have her baby at mealtimes and at night.

Passing from the Hospital, tea was very kindly provided in Matron's Office, several sisters presided and the class was greatly interested in learning something of their work. The Hospital Staff consist of two principal sisters and 28 sisters, all are State Registered Nurses and Certified Midwives, many also hold the Royal Medico-Psychological Association Certificate and certificates of Fever Training and Public Health. Members of the Nursing Staff sleep out.

It was explained that the nursing of prisoners is often difficult and complicated, owing to the mental condition of the patient; as well as being bodily ill they may be mentally sick also, suffering from severe nervous strain or other serious mental disturbances. The Sisters expressed the keenest interest in the welfare of their patients and rejoice in their calling as a means of helping those who come under their care, to a higher conception of life.

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