

Concerning the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, all the members of the Committee had sent letters of protest to their Member of Parliament strongly protesting against the degradation of Registered Nurses as proposed in the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services; and letters in reply had been received proposing to oppose any proposal to amend the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, which would involve the institution of a roll of second-grade nurses to be compiled and controlled by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession.

It was unanimously agreed that Miss G. E. Sharpe, Matron, Harts Sanatorium, Woodford Green, be appointed a delegate to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, in place of Miss L. Mackie. A vote of thanks to Miss Mackie for her services rendered, and expressing regret that she wished to relinquish this office, was carried unanimously.

Members elected to the Executive Committee to replace retiring members were: Miss H. McLoughlin, Miss G. Sharpe, Miss I. Tulloch, and Miss F. M. Campbell.

The Treasurer, Miss A. S. Bryson, submitted the Statement of Accounts for the year, which showed a balance of £107 7s. 5d.

Very cordial votes of thanks were accorded to the President, Miss W. P. Solomon; the Hon. Secretary, Miss J. T. Ruddy; and the Hon. Treasurer, Miss A. S. Bryson, for their valuable services to the League.

At the close of the meeting, by the kind arrangement of Messrs. H. J. Green & Co., Ltd., a representative conducted the members of the Association on a most interesting tour of their works. Externally the establishment has little of the appearance of a factory; it is a fine construction, unobtrusively situated among dwelling-houses in grounds beautifully laid out with turf and beds now a blaze of Spring flowers.

In visiting the various departments, it was an education to see the scientific preparation, under the most hygienic conditions, for the manufacture of sponge mixture, custard powder, jelly crystals, chocolate mould, carmelle (preparation for delicious caramel cream puddings without eggs), ice-cream powder, aspic jelly, numerous pudding and cake mixtures, chutney and sauces, and many other delectable preparations.

Up-to-date machinery which automatically filled, wrapped and labelled packages at great speed; machines which weighed 1,000 6-oz. packets of sponge mixture per hour with astonishing accuracy; and the box-making department, where the work progressed like magic under the skill of operators.

The staff of some 200 workers of the firm appeared to be a testimony of the excellent organisation. To avoid monotony, staff are permitted to exchange work, and are catered for by the firm. A two-course dinner can be obtained for 8d. and 10d. per day.

The members of the League were most kindly provided with delicious tea, when bread-and-butter and confections of the best were greatly appreciated.

An invitation to see a demonstration in cooking was most kindly extended to the members, and valuable instruction on this necessary art was greatly appreciated by all. A very cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the management for their most generous hospitality during this enjoyable visit to the Aldington Works.

#### A CORRECTION.

The Public Health Department, Pontypridd, wish to make a correction in regard to information supplied concerning Miss Rees, the newly appointed Matron of the Pontypridd Council's Isolation Hospital. Miss Rees did not receive training at the Cardiff City Isolation Hospital; she was employed there as Ward Sister.

#### THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The Annual Meetings on May 4th marked the closing of an epoch in the history of the Nurses' Missionary League. At the afternoon gathering, in a crowded hall, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Blackburn (President of the League) made a presentation to Miss Richardson in the name of members and friends all over the world. The presentation consisted of a handbag and cheque, and a book containing the signatures of 867 contributors, of whom 166 were members working overseas. The Bishop spoke with deep appreciation of Miss Richardson's thirty-two years of service for the League; and Miss Richardson in her reply urged all present to give full and loyal support to her successor, so that the work might ever increase and more nurses be drawn to the service of Jesus Christ. The afternoon session closed with an inspiring talk from the Bishop in which he emphasised the deep spiritual truths which make up the "things that abide."

At the evening session, the chief business was the election of the new General Secretary, Miss Lilian Topping, S.R.N., S.C.M. Miss Macfee, in introducing her, told that Miss Topping had been trained at the London Hospital, had worked for a time in Burma, and had since been engaged in Christian work at home. The election was carried unanimously, and after a few words from Miss Topping, Miss Richardson commended the future of the work to God in prayer.

Although these were the central events of the day, the work overseas was not forgotten. Miss Gross gave a vivid description of work as a district nurse in India, the difficulties ranging from crossing a flooded river in an open boat with the temperature at 115° in the shade, to coping single-handed with a smallpox epidemic, with 120 patients. Mrs. Harrison told about work in China, not only the present problems of wounded and refugees, but also the conditions before the war, the acute cases, the training of Chinese nurses, and particularly the need for recruits, who, she said, should have every bit of training and knowledge that they could acquire. Dr. Stella Henriques and Miss Verinder gave very interesting talks about work in Iran.

A talk by Miss Cochrane, R.R.C. (Charing Cross Hospital), dealt with the need for "missionaries" at home, those who in the daily round of duty will encourage their fellows to rise above the spirit of materialism and self-seeking, and help them to make their whole life and work a fit offering to their Master.

#### DEPRIVING THE MATRONS OF PROFESSIONAL AUTHORITY.

The Council of the Women's Liberal Association met at Scarborough, on May 9th and 10th, and under the heading "Nursing," are supporting amongst other items to which Registered Nurses strongly object:—

That acceptance of students by a hospital matron previous to taking Part I. of the Preliminary Examination shall be abolished; and further,

That the "Assistant Nurse," whose training should be regulated, should be given legal recognition and protection, and that the great need for her work should be recognised.

What this Federation knows about nursing is not apparent. We can but hope that its leading lights, of which Miss Megan Lloyd George is one, will avail themselves of this grade of nurse should she materialise, when they and their nearest and dearest are sick!

But it is the poor that are going to suffer from inefficient attendants, not the rich.

#### UNIFORMS FOR VOLUNTEER NURSES.

An overall and cap will be provided free to all women who take the short course of training for enrolment as Nursing Auxiliaries in the Civil Nursing Reserve. This training is, we believe, 45 hours in hospital! Why should these volunteers not find their own garments, as V.A.D.s do?

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