

hold the certificate of the hospital, and who have given notable service to the League or Nursing, may be elected Vice-Presidents of the League for life, on the nomination of a member. Such election shall either carry membership of and power to vote on all committees, or not, as may be recommended at the time of nomination. All such nominations must be confirmed by a majority of votes at two consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee, and any resolution of election, of which due notice shall be given, must be carried by a two-thirds majority of the members present at a General Meeting."

This resolution was put to the vote and passed unanimously.

Then Miss Helen T. Baines, who has done such invaluable work for the League as Hon. General Secretary for so many years, on the proposal of the President was elected a Vice-President of the League for life, etc. She was also presented with a bouquet of flowers by the President to enthusiastic applause from all present. Miss Baines then expressed appreciation and seemed greatly touched by the honour done her.

Names of the new members of the League were then read out and a hearty welcome extended to them.

After this there was a short discussion on the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, as published in the Interim Report.

The President read out the various items and commented on them, and when the one referring to the Assistant Nurse was mentioned, one member spoke very much in favour of it, and two other members spoke as warmly against it; another said how important it was for State Registered Nurses to place S.R.N. after their names so that the public would realise their position—so few nurses did this at present; but the majority of the members at the meeting said nothing. A fine opportunity lost for protecting nursing standards—and the sick.

The meeting being then over, we all adjourned to the Great Hall, where, as usual, a most delicious tea was prepared for us by those kind Sisters and their helpers. Needless to say it was enjoyed to the full, as also the delightful chats with old friends. Thus came to an end a very pleasant gathering.

E. F. A., S.R.N.

THE ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITAL MATRONS.

At the Twentieth Annual Meeting of the Association of Hospital Matrons, held in the Great Hall, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on July 8th, at which the President, Miss Helen Dey, presided, an Address by Miss Effie Taylor, President of the International Council of Nurses, was delivered on "The Position of the Assistant Nurse in the United States," received too late for publication, in which it was stated that the titles "Practical Nurse," or "Trained Attendant," are used when women are employed who are not Trained and Registered Nurses, and that such persons are licensed to practise in several States. This paper was indeed salve to the consciences of the members of the Association of Hospital Matrons, an influential body, who, we were informed, had already agreed to support the Recommendation of the Inter-Departmental Committee that a Roll of untrained and semi-trained women should be compiled by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, presumably by the amendment of the Nurses Registration Act of 1919, and thus to a policy of degrading nursing standards; a policy many members of the Association deplore, but to which they have subscribed owing to the fact that there are not enough student nurses to care for the sick in all classes of hospitals, and who as Registered Nurses after a long and arduous training and many examinations are not prepared to care for old and chronic cases and do routine drudgery.

We gathered from Miss Effie Taylor, and indeed from several delegates from our Dominions at present in London, that they would have it otherwise, but that circumstances are too strong for them, and acquiescence appears to be the result of circumstance. That attitude is not, in our opinion, a commendable policy. Expediency undermining integrity—the curse of world politics, and that the women responsible for the nursing of the sick are conforming to it, cannot be too deeply deplored. Such action proves lack of conscientious conviction and courage, and is doomed to bring disaster upon our profession. It is the duty of those engaged in the training of nurses to define a safe standard of efficiency for those entrusted with the care of the sick, and it is evident that throughout the English-speaking countries, acknowledged leaders in the past of high standards of nursing efficiency have apparently not the courage to unite to claim the power, without which they cannot do their duty in the future.

It is the duty of medical practitioners and Registered Nurses to take a firm stand against depreciation of nursing standards and status as proposed by the Inter-Departmental Committee in England, and apparently by employers of nurses in our Dominions and in the United States. Will they do it? We gather from Miss Effie Taylor that they will not. Alas! It would appear that the virus of expediency has poisoned the blood stream of integrity so far as the care of the sick poor is concerned.

And that brings us to the question of how long high standards of nursing will be available.

We are of opinion that the present purblind attitude of medical and nursing conscience will inevitably result in contempt upon the part of well-educated conscientious girls, and that the choice of nursing as their life's work will not appeal so soon as they realise that professional efficiency, legal status and economic security have been cast into the melting pot of expediency.

Neither in the United States nor in Canada is federal (national) registration of nurses in force, as it is in England and Scotland. In the former, State Legislatures license nurses, and in Canada this power is exercised by the Provincial Legislatures. Again the geographical extent of both countries is not comparable with our very circumscribed environment.

"SPIRITUAL FACTOR" IN MAN.

The research in the field of "fundamental psychological conceptions," of Professor C. G. Jung, the famous Swiss savant, has aroused deep interest in the scientific world.

In the public mind, Jung is usually linked with Freud, but actually the philosophy of the two men differs widely. Whereas Freud maintains the attitude of a materialist, Jung persists in the acceptance of a spiritual factor as an element in human experience.

To Jung, psychology without a soul always seemed an anachronism; and to prove his theories, he determined to study primitive mentality side by side with its evolution as shown in European reactions.

Accompanied by a London colleague, Dr. H. C. Baynes, he camped for several months in one of the most remote parts of Kenya among the wild Elgoni, a primitive Central African tribe. The material gathered from these investigations amply justified the hardships and danger of the enterprise.

Though the work of both Jung and Freud has been responsible for much controversy, its great importance to the community is now generally acknowledged. There are still some who regard the attempt to create a scientific psychology as doomed to failure, but the movement has now the sympathetic interest of the bulk of the scientific and medical world.

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