

NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE CAMP.

Sunshine, sparkling water—mountains and hills—friendship and happy laughter—what a background for a holiday! And such a holiday has been the happy experience of some 70 or more nurses this month up on the Firth of Clyde.

To spend a holiday on an island is—to start with—a change; for to arrive there by boat gives one a feeling of being right away from one's ordinary life. The days have been spent in bathing or walking or some steamer trip or motor drive.

Sometimes no organised trip would be on the programme and individual nurses would go their own way, some to the shops at Rothesay, some to wander amongst the rocks or amongst the lovely wild flowers in the lanes, others would stay in the garden, or even retire to their beds! sometimes to find there an "apple pie" or other signs of a mischievous hand having been at work.

But a holiday is really not complete without some fresh vision of the spiritual realities which are eternal, and so this holiday time of rest and beauty has also had its opportunities for praise and prayer and meditation, when speakers have given us thoughts of God and His claims and tried to help us to contribute ideas on subjects of central interest and importance, while others told us about the work which is being done in mission hospitals overseas.

"One loving spirit sets another on fire"—and it is at times like this that one realises the joy that can be had, and what is more important, *given* to others, caught from Him Who came that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

OBITUARY.

The Nursing Profession Loses a Real Friend.

Her many friends in the nursing world learned with real grief of the death of Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., Ph.D. on Saturday, June 24th, at her residence at Hanover Gate Mansions, N.W. She was the widow of Dr. J. Gordon of Aberdeen. Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon, was one of the very few distinguished women, who realised the inestimable value of nursing as a profession—in its relation to national health—and the last letter received from her expressed her deep regret, that owing to illness she

was unable to be with us on the platform at the Caxton Hall on March 21st, and take part in the expressions of protest against the dangerous Recommendation of the Inter-Departmental Committee of instituting a grade of uneducated Assistant Nurses.

Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon was the eldest daughter of the late Rev. Dr. A. Ogilvie, of Aberdeen, and was educated at the Ladies' College, Edinburgh, where she was Dux Medallist and travelling scholar, and at University College, London, where she gained the gold medal for Zoology and Comparative Anatomy. From 1891 to 1895 she studied Geology and Palaeontology at Munich University, and was among the first women who obtained the Ph.D. degree of that university which she took in 1900 with the highest honours. She was fellow or honorary fellow of many learned bodies, among which were the Linnean Society, the Geological Society, the Geological Society of Vienna, and the Science Department, Trento, Italy.

Dame Maria did important research work concerning the stratigraphy, palaeontology, and tectonics of Southern Tyrol. She proved the presence of important thrust-planes in Langkof, Sella, and the Boe summit, and other dolomite mountains of the Gröden and Fassa districts which had previously been regarded as undisturbed examples of ancient coral reefs. She was the first to demonstrate the occurrence of two successive folding movements in



A GROUP OF NURSES IN THE HOLIDAY CAMP.
Centre back row: Miss Lilian Topping, S.R.N., New General Secretary, Nurses' Missionary League.

that region. Her other investigations included the microscopical structure of the skeleton of corals, both fossil and recent. Her work was recognised in 1932 by the award to her of a Lyell Medal and a grant from the Lyell Geological Fund. She had also been honoured by honorary doctorates by the Universities of Edinburgh, Sydney, and Innsbruck.

Dame Maria was in warm sympathy with the programme of the British College of Nurses, and seldom missed attending its social functions, where her charm and genuine sympathy won her many friends. She was a brilliant woman of science, and when her valuable services were at last recognised, by the bestowal of a D.B.E., it was in the sphere of science and not in the cause of philanthropy that the honour should have been bestowed. Those nurses who enjoyed her interest and sympathy will long mourn the loss of a very dear friend. Cremation took place at Golders Green on June 28th, the committal at Allenvale Cemetery, Aberdeen, on June 29th with a wealth of lovely flowers.

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