

the little book at the cost of a shilling to the extent of meeting the sum required. The main fact is that our effort has proved successful and this in time to supply a suitable subject for a holiday number of the journal; it is all to the good, too, if it serves to stimulate, in some small way, powers of phantasy and imagination and so make, for a short space of time, a way of escape from the hurry and anxieties of the present.

We thank very warmly all those who "have helped the fairies." We hope that each year, as the former sit down to enjoy their Christmas dinner, they will remember another, perhaps somewhat ghostly feast to them but still actual enough, in which they participate as the hostesses; a very scattered feast it is indeed, spread across these islands and beyond them.

"The wee folk" have added the proverbial Scotch "luck-penny" when keeping their contract. This and any further small sums that may arise on the book will be used to give pleasure in some way as, for instance, in the case of an old nurse (not a Member of the Association) who speaks of her annual short holiday at the Club as "coming to Paradise," so good it is to be among her colleagues again and to spend hours in Kensington Gardens, her favourite haunt.

THE SETTLEMENT HOME.

We have to announce that there will shortly be a vacant room at the Settlement Home. If any Member would like to have particulars regarding it and to visit the Settlement she should make application to the office when all information will be supplied to her and an appointment will be made for her to see the Home. Incidentally we may say that the Sister-in-Charge is always very pleased to show the Home to Members of the Association, but a time must be appointed for this otherwise she may be out. It is rarely that a room does fall vacant and the Home is very much appreciated by those who have rooms in it; in this connection it is good to reflect that the Home was established, and to a very considerable extent endowed, through the generosity of the Members of the Association alone.

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

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

A RETROGRADE ATTITUDE TO THE PROFESSION OF NURSING.

The British Medical Association reports in the Supplement to the *British Medical Journal*, June 24th, 1939, that the Ministry of Health proposes to give consideration to the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services with regard to "assistant nurses," and has invited the observations of the Association thereon.

In its evidence which the Association submitted to the Inter-Departmental Committee, the sound opinion was expressed that assistant nurses should not be formally enrolled or admitted to any form of State registration. Notwithstanding this opinion, however, the Council is in agreement with the recommendation of the Inter-Departmental Committee (which recommends the establishment of a *Roll of Assistant Nurses* under the control of the General Nursing Council), and has so informed the Ministry.

Thus the British Medical Association has now reversed its principles in so far as the degrading of the Registered Nurses are concerned. Alas! for the conscientious convictions and chivalrous advocacy of our professional status so effectively supported by men of the calibre of the late Sir Victor Horsley and his colleagues in 1919! Alas! skilled nursing is apparently no longer to be recognised as necessary in the great art of healing—a sad reaction in medical opinion—and one for which its members will surely suffer, when ignorance is substituted for efficiency and their patients pay the penalty!

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

A meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the offices of the Council, 23, Portland Place, London, W., on July 28th. Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., presided.

Business arising out of the Minutes.

The Chairman reported a letter from the Ministry of Health concerning the carrying on of the work in time of War. All recommendations would have to be placed before both Houses of Parliament for their approval.

It was recommended that the Test Educational Examination be discontinued in the event of an emergency, and powers be vested in the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairmen of Committees to carry on the work of the Council.

Correspondence.

Correspondence was reported from the St. Marylebone Borough Council concerning the utility of the premises as a public shelter in the time of War. The architects of the Council and of the Borough Council were in co-operation concerning the strengthening of the basement.

The following correspondence was also reported:—

Letter from Ministry of Health.

Whitehall, S.W.1.

June 28th, 1939.

MADAM,

I am directed by the Minister of Health to refer to his letter of May 17th and to previous correspondence on the Amendments to Rules 3 and 4 (1) of that part of the Rules which relates to admission to the Register by Examination after June 30th, 1925, and to say that the provisions of sub-section (4) of Section 3 of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, have been complied with and that no Address about the amended Rules has been presented to His Majesty.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

Z. L. PUNLEY.

The Registrar,
General Nursing Council,
23, Portland Place, W.1.

Letter from Secretary, British College of Nurses.

19, Queen's Gate,

London, S.W.7.

July 7th, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,
The General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

At the Annual General Meeting of the British College of Nurses held on Tuesday, July 4th, 1939, it was unanimously agreed that the following Resolution be sent to the Chairman and Members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Resolution.

"That the Members of the British College of Nurses in Annual Meeting assembled on Tuesday, July 4th, 1939, desire to place on record, their strong disapproval of the proposed amendment to the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, for the purpose of compiling a Statutory Roll of untrained and semi-trained nurses by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the Governing Body of efficiently trained nurses, registered after examination.

Moreover, the members of the British College of Nurses protest against the Headquarters in Portland Place, which they have erected and financed, being used for the organisation of a Roll (a Register) of untrained nurses,

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