

be treated at special sanatoria or in wards completely isolated from other patients.

Since the Ministry of Health has adopted the serious policy of ignoring the professional title of "Registered" Nurse and substituted that of "trained" which has no significance in law—in all its official proclamations to the Nursing Profession, we owe an expression of gratitude to the British Broadcasting Corporation in its recognition of our legal status in the following advertisement:—

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION.

Applications are invited for a vacancy in the Television Department at Alexandra Palace for a State Registered Nurse with clerical qualifications. Rota of week-end and evening duties to be covered on shift basis.

Wage according to age and qualifications (Contributory Pension Scheme).

Applications, giving age, qualifications, experience and present wage, should reach the Women Staff Administrator, Broadcasting House, London, W.1, not later than Wednesday, August 23rd, 1939. Applications and covering envelopes must be clearly marked "A.P. Nurse." Married women are not normally eligible for appointment to the staff of the B.B.C.

Candidates requiring acknowledgment and notification of the result of their applications should enclose two stamped and addressed envelopes.

We hope a good selection has been possible.

Edinburgh is attempting to lead Scotland in an effort to better nurses' salary conditions. Recently when the Corporation's Public Health Committee met, it was decided to forward a strong recommendation to the Treasurer's Committee that the salary scales for hospital staffs—as contained in the report of the Scottish Department Committee on Nursing—should be put into operation immediately.

A SOLEMN WARNING.

We have been amazed to hear numbers of intelligent private nurses advocate the removal of their names from the State Register as a protest against the conduct of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in what they realise is a mean betrayal of their professional interests in consenting *in camera* to compile a Roll of untrained and uncertified nurses.

We solemnly warn Registered Nurses that any such suicidal policy would deprive them of their legal status as members of a statutory profession—and result only in injury to themselves—depriving them of power to deal effectively with the General Nursing Council, which has so basely betrayed its trust.

No! No resignations. What is needed is united action to bring home effectively with *publicity* the determination of Registered Nurses to no longer stand aside and be legislated for by a dictatorial Ministry of Health and futile nurse representatives on the General Nursing Council.

The Registered Nurses have a right to be heard in General Council assembled. Let them demand this right in their own Council House, every stone of which they have paid for.

"Dizzy" always advised "Never resign." Very sound advice, which we endorsed.

SOME ASPECTS OF HISTORY: ITS GIFT OF ENTHUSIASM.

Recently a visitor to the British College of Nurses spent some hours of industry in the room where Miss Bushby keeps her historical treasures and apparently found herself as in new and hitherto undiscovered country. She has for years been interested in nursing history, and, indeed, it was one of the subjects which, in her hospital, she was called upon to teach. During the afternoon she inspected Miss Bushby's collection, and then pondered over volume after volume of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, making an ever closer acquaintance with the story of her own profession.

She spoke almost as though she had experienced a process of initiation into the whole development of it, especially during the last 50 years; she realised the spirit and effort that had brought about its evolution and placed it at last in the ranks of the professions on receiving the recognition by the State, as such, by the passage of the Acts in 1919. Among these records she felt herself on a point of vantage from which she could examine history, see events in perspective and fit each one into its proper place as a factor in historical development. Her warm interest in her subject brought back a statement made, I think, by Thomas Carlyle when discussing history and its uses. It is to the effect that the chief value of history lies in the enthusiasm it arouses. Whether his dictum is true or only partially so, there is no denying the fact of the enthusiasm of which he speaks. Miss Bushby, our College Historian, is in her attitude of mind, a living example of it. The slightest thing will sometimes put her on the scent of new discoveries and no trouble is too great, no journey too long, once she imagines she may be on the track of some new discovery. And whence comes this enthusiasm? The actual thing in itself, be it some forgotten fact that she has unearthed like a jewel from the débris of world events or some letter or other prize that has associations with a character or episode in nursing history, does not present anything very different from other quite ordinary objects; and so we come to the conclusion that it is not the thing in itself that arouses the enthusiasm, but the fact that it becomes the meeting place between the enthusiasm called forth and some incident of the past that pertains to history. Nor does it matter that some chance allusion, some sentence caught here or there, leads Miss Bushby into what proves to be a blind alley; another reference of a similar kind will set her on the scent, keen as ever, perhaps ending in the acquisition of treasure.

A Lady of Infinite Variety.

The muse of history is a lady of infinite variety. There is scarcely an aspect of a nation's life where she does not exercise her charm and awake enthusiasm. It will be to the lasting honour of Lavinia Dock and Adelaide Nutting that they were the first to seek to draw aside her veil for the nurses and discover to us her charm. They recognised the psychological moment when it had become necessary to the profession that its history be placed against the background of time, to make of it an enduring picture. We have only to think of what such figures as Hippocrates, Galen, Harvey and others mean to the medical profession to realise that the need had arisen to compile nursing as well as medical history; for history is a necessity to the development of a profession. It lies with history to give inspiration from the past and to set up examples and give instruction for the present. But here we seek only to consider what Carlyle regarded as the chief use of history, that of engendering enthusiasm and thereby keeping alive the spirit of the past and showing continuity in evolution.

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