

Although the thanksgiving in St. Paul's Cathedral primarily commemorates the action of the Council of King's College in setting to work to establish a hospital, it is also one for the great service of nurses, as the date is also the birthday of Florence Nightingale. Accordingly, the heads of the Nursing Services of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, as well as other leaders of the nursing profession, will be present. King's own Nurses' League will be largely represented at the service. Many others will join them, and any number will be welcome as the successors of the Founder of the Nursing Profession. The congregation can be assured that rarely has there been gathered in St. Paul's Cathedral such a large body of nursing service.

Those of us who attended on Sunday, July 18th, 1937, when St. Paul's was crowded with delegates to the great International Council of Nurses, and who were addressed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, will never forget the impressive sight, nor sense of professional solidarity on that wonderful occasion.

The years flit by so rapidly that we can hardly realise that it is nearly two years since Sir George Newman delivered his masterly Oration on Florence Nightingale before the International Council of Nurses, in London. The Oration is procurable at Florence Nightingale International House, 15, Manchester Square, London, W.1 (price, 1s.), and should be in the possession of every student and Registered nurse.

We always study the annual report of the nursing branch of the Ranyard Mission with interest, that just to hand is for the year to December, 1938.

The Ranyard nurses are a body of fully trained hospital nurses engaged in nursing sick people in various parts of London in their own homes. They regard their service as a Christian vocation and seek to help the patients among whom they live and work in every way possible.

We fear 1938 has been one of many changes at Ranyard House. Miss Irene Hett resigned as Hon. Secretary and General Superintendent of the Mission, her decision being received with very great regret, but her help will be available as a member of the Council and of the Executive Committee. Miss Grace Bucknall succeeded Miss Hett.

The provident schemes have made good progress and receipts from this source have increased from £4,675 18s. 9d. in 1937, to £4,915 1s. 5d. in 1938.

The Greater London Provident Scheme is to be known henceforward as the Home Nursing Scheme, under which the nurses have paid 689 visits to members insured under the scheme. The salaries of the nurses have been raised by £10 per annum and the colour of their outdoor uniform changed from black to navy blue.

The Ranyard nurses are distinguished by dark red belts worn with their indoor uniform and by their badge on a red ribbon in the form of a bronze cross, inscribed with the initials of the founder of the Ranyard Mission "L.N.R." and "Orare est Caliorare, London, 1868."

The training required before a nurse becomes eligible for State Registration is long and arduous, and for

those who wish to take up District Nursing there is a further specialised training to be undergone. This work requires personality and organising power as well as devotion to duty and a strong sense of vocation. The ideal of Christian service which inspired Ranyard Nurses of the past is the ideal that is placed before the nurses to-day and the need for their twofold ministry remains as great as it was 71 years ago.

A valued colleague from North Perth writes: "You will have read of the disastrous bush fires in Victoria just recently—71 lives lost—and homes and cattle. The country is a blackened ruin. You know Victoria is called the Garden of Australia, the foresters consider it will take 25 years to recover drought conditions, the worst on record—but that is broken now—and it is hoped vegetables will soon be procurable. People have been very generous in helping the stricken ones; £61,000 subscribed in the first ten days in Victoria. Most of the wealth of Australia is in that State, but so many lost everything—and may never be able to make another home. It is generally believed that many of the fires were wilfully made. Glad the refugees are being allowed in Australia. When one looks at pictures of children, homeless and in such dire straits—it is our duty to give them a welcome, and a fresh start in life.

The Nightingale is the monthly bulletin of the Nazareth Nursing School Alumnae of St. Joseph's Hospital, Lexington, Kentucky. A prize of two dollars was awarded to the member who won the contest with her suggestion of the name, *The Nightingale*. The school and hospital was established by Sisters of Mercy, and since 1877 has been conducted by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth.

It was the late Sir William Osler who said "to study disease without books is to sail an uncharted sea, while to study books without patients is not to go to sea at all." That is why we strongly condemn the split Preliminary Examination for probationers, as thrust upon the nursing profession by the present General Nursing Council—which may be passed without clinical experience.

THE NURSING STANDARDS DEFENCE FUND.

Nothing worth having is to be gained in this world without self sacrifice, and it goes without saying that it is the few who are willing to pay for the public good. Thus the Committee appointed to defend Nursing Standards and legal status under the Nurses Registration Act cannot hope for popular acclaim.

Nevertheless many generous subscriptions have been forwarded and all expenses of the Public Meeting of Protest have already been paid. But publicity is very costly, and as it is a privilege to make sacrifices for duty's sake we invite our colleagues who value high standards of nursing for the sick to subscribe a small sum towards propaganda. We know those who respond to this call will realise the uplift of so doing.

Subscriptions may be sent to the Secretary, at 194 or 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, for which thanks in advance.

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