

Royal British Nurses' Association.

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OBITUARY.

HERBERT J. PATERSON, C.B.E., M.C., F.R.C.S.

It is with a sense of deep regret that we have to record the passing of another member of the Association to whom our gratitude is due—Mr. Herbert Paterson, C.B.E., M.C., F.R.C.S., Medical Hon. Secretary to the Association. The past 12 months have indeed taken toll of an unusual number of those who have helped to make the destinies of the Association, and in Mr. Paterson it had a friend who, in the critical years of the last part of the struggle for the Registration Acts, was one of comparatively few medical men who came forward to help the nurses in their aspirations for this professional reform. He was Hon. Treasurer of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses for several years prior to its dissolution after it had achieved its purpose through the establishment of the Nurses' Registration Acts. A few years ago, Mr. Paterson was compelled to give up practice as a surgeon owing to ill health, but he still maintained a keen activity in matters relating to his profession, and to manifold other interests that were his. Many nurses individually have had experience of his kindness, and at Queen Alexandra's Hospital for Officers, of which he was Hon. Medical Superintendent and Hon. Surgeon, we had a fine example of good comradeship and harmonious working between the medical and nursing staffs.

He was Surgeon Emeritus of the National Temperance Hospital, Hon. Surgeon to King Edward VII Hospital for Officers and examiner in Surgery to the Universities of Cambridge and Glasgow. Among other appointments he held that of Huntrean Professor of Surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons and was prize essayist of the Jacksonian prize awarded by that College for a work on Diseases of the Stomach and their Surgical Treatment. Numerous works have come from his pen on surgical subjects.

LECTURE ON CIVILIAN MORALE.

On Thursday, June 13th, at 4.45 p.m., Dr. Burnett Rae will give us a lecture on "Civilian Morale." This lecture, while primarily applicable to the conditions of the times, will also deal largely with the psychological aspects of Fear and should prove exceedingly interesting and helpful to nurses. We shall be very pleased to see all who are in town and can attend and hope that they will bring friends.

Dr. Burnett Rae is an authority on psychology and his last lecture before the Association was very greatly appreciated. Nurses will remember his inspiring speech when he supported a resolution, carried at the Caxton Hall meeting in March, 1939, when we protested against the proposal of the Inter-Departmental Committee for the Nursing Services to amend the Nurses Registration Act to include a Roll of semi-qualified women.

THE CHELSEA EXHIBITION.

Once, when wandering round a collection of pictures of old masters in the Museum of the ancient town of Colmar, in Alsace, we met a young lawyer who apparently spent

every holiday in places where he would have opportunity of visiting collections such as this. After listening to much that he had to say about the famous Grünewalds at Colmar and witnessing his intense enjoyment of them, we asked the casual question: "Are you a painter?" And the reply came: "No, I'm a lawyer; but one must have something beautiful in life and I get it from great pictures." It was in this frame of mind, among the harassments and anxieties of the present time, that it suddenly struck a few Members in town that it would be a welcome tonic to get the refreshment of the beautiful for themselves by arranging an impromptu "Ramble" to the Chelsea Exhibition. The attractive house where the treasures are collected was the home of Whistler, and prior to its erection there stood on its site the house of Theodore de Magerne, who was physician to Charles I. The collection at present contains a fine piece of evidence of what Chelsea has contributed to art and literature, and there are added to its own collection the beautiful Crown Jewels of Russia. There are many articles closely related to historical events and many to remind one of the unfortunate House of Stuart, while others are reminiscent as having belonged to Anne Boleyn, Marie Antoinette, Sir Thomas More and other tragic figures.

One of the most charming items of the Exhibition is the collection of 106 old Chelsea scent bottles, lent by Mrs. Sassoon. No more delicate productions of Chelsea china could be found than some of these; it is a veritable pageant this collection of dainty figures of every description. The Exhibition of the Russian State Regalia and objets d'art from the Imperial Palaces of Russia are, most of them, of surpassing beauty. The great variety of the exhibits did not prevent us from experiencing the harmony of the arrangement of all these beautiful things and the comic element, introduced by some, makes one realise how close humour may lie to art, or, in fact, that it is one of the eyes through which, sometimes, to view works of art. The painted wooden signboard of a doctor of the early 18th century is somewhat amusing and reminds us of how the present time medical service has evolved in so far as it caters for poor and rich. This worthy, Dr. Dominiceti, apparently gave remedies and bleedings at nine in the morning for "charity fees," while, later in the day, he gave "advices" and treatment to those who could pay him on a more remunerative scale. Apparently, the good doctor moved from Bath ultimately and practised in the thriving little town of Chelsea, for the board was found in the wall of a house in Cheyne Walk where there had stood the entrance to baths and fumigating quarters in 1765.

Paintings by many of our modern artists made a pleasant and interesting variation in the exhibition apart from the beauty of what it comprises, the exhibition is an object lesson on the perfection of works of the human hand and of how it and the brain co-operate in the education of one another.

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ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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