

America; from San Francisco to Venezuela, thence through Brazil and Argentina to La Paz, Bolivia, through South and Central America—a most exciting trip pioneered by Rose Abramson, R.N., we close the journal feeling like the monkey who, peeping from a cage, feels he has seen the world!

Geography is a science greatly neglected by the average nurse, and, failing cash and time for travel, it is wonderful after reading of these trips in *Public Health Nursing* what marvels have been revealed by the camera. The Cathedral in Arequipa, in Peru, exquisitely stately beyond words, and the Indians of Otava'o, Ecuador, with their pigtails, mushroom hats and splendid cloaks, picturesque beyond words.

Nurses are needed everywhere, and the hospitals are on the upgrade. Miss Abramson writes: "I found Lima a lovely city with quite a cosmopolitan population. A new general hospital is in charge of a French Nursing Order of Nuns. Here there is a four-years' training course for nurses. As usual, the entrance requirements are six years of elementary schooling. Besides the general hospital, there is a children's hospital which has a training course for children's nurses. This hospital gives the students a varied experience in formulas, diet kitchen, medicine, surgery, clinics and operating-room.

At the Quito general hospital, the girls who train here first take a three years' course at the University and then get their practice at the hospital. When they are through they have the title of *Enfermera Universitaria*. In Ecuador, as elsewhere in Latin America, physicians who have studied in hospitals where there are graduate nurses do appreciate and long for their help.

In a recent issue *Public Health Nursing* has a most interesting little survey of negro nurses in 17 Agencies, U.S.A.: "The negro public health nurse has helped to raise the level of health and to lower the death rates in these 17 cities. She has, of course, shared these accomplishments with many other workers in the broad field of human welfare. Detroit is particularly pleased with the lowered tuberculosis death rate among its negro population, which has been the goal of the Department of Health's tuberculosis campaign.

With what happiness Mrs. Beecher-Stowe, authoress of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," would have followed the success of the negro nurse!

PUBLICITY THROUGH THE PRESS.

A remarkably able article by Miss G. M. Hardy, Matron of the Battersea General Hospital, was honoured by front page prominence in the *Daily Telegraph* on October 11th. It has aroused wide interest and approval, and will, we feel sure, encourage other Registered Nurses to realise their professional responsibility at this time, when so many people are out to pander to expediency and depreciate our standards of efficiency.

We heartily congratulate Miss Hardy on her championship of safe standards of nursing for the sick of all classes. Degrading of nurses means inevitable suffering for the poor, at the mercy of members of County and Borough Councils who have little knowledge of professional affairs, or sympathy with women workers in their struggle for independence of expression.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Council was held on Thursday, November 6th, at 19, Queen's Gate, London, at 2.30 p.m. The President was in the Chair, and important business was discussed.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE REGISTERED NURSE.

The second meeting of the Special Committee was held on October 2nd, at 2.30 p.m. at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

The Chairman, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., F.B.C.N., presided, and there was a full meeting of the Committee. On the business arising out of the Minutes as agreed at the previous meeting—to oppose the recognition and registration by the State of semi-trained nurses by the General Nursing Council; the Chairman called for a report from each member of action taken since the last meeting. The reports of members proved their activity, each one having brought the policy of the Special Committee to the notice of influential persons, including Lord Horder, and the Press. Further action was agreed, dealing especially with the economic status of Registered Nurses, and their rights as such under the Nurses' Registration Act of 1919, which they entirely finance.

Three-quarters of a million pounds contributed by Registered Nurses.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, expressed her determination to protect her legal status as a Registered Nurse—and hoped nurses who valued the power and privileges, which after such a valiant struggle upon the part of the pioneers they now enjoyed, would for the sake of the sick continue to maintain efficient nursing standards. She proposed that the financial responsibility of Registered Nurses for maintaining these standards for the past 20 years should be given all the publicity possible. It was usually ignored by persons attempting to control them. **Not less than three-quarters of a million pounds** had been contributed by Registered Nurses in maintaining the work of the General Nursing Council in the past 20 years. This suggestion was approved.

Miss Warren reported her action in communicating with women Members of Parliament, and had also drafted a scheme for consideration on reconstruction by the members of the Committee.

Miss G. M. Hardy also reported activities. She had been in communication with the Press, and hoped for results.

Other members made encouraging reports.

The Chairman thanked the members for their enthusiastic support of the work of the Committee, which she hoped would be energetically pursued, in support of justice for Registered Nurses and the efficient care of the sick.

The Meeting then terminated.

The third meeting of the Special Committee took place at 19, Queen's Gate, on Thursday, October 30th. Miss M. S. Cochrane was in the Chair, and a very satisfactory report of activities was presented. Further action was agreed upon which it was hoped would enlighten the public on the very dangerous result of depreciating standards of nursing, and enlist the sympathy of those who realised the value of professional status for women. A date for a further meeting of the Special Committee was agreed.

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