

has to contend. Imagine doctor being called to an emergency late one afternoon to find an operation necessary. The only lighting available was a petrol lamp and a small spot-light. The operation involved a resection of part of a gangrenous bowel, and because the lamp had to be pumped up occasionally and the spot-light moved frequently it will not surprise you to hear that it took 4½ hours. In spite of this, doctor and sisters did a splendid job, undoubtedly saving another life.

Koonibba, 25 miles distant, lies midway between Penong and Ceduna. One of the B.C.A. sisters has charge of the little hospital for natives in the mission compound, superintended by the Lutheran Church. We called on them on the King's day of prayer in the midst of the pastor's service for the patients and so stayed to unite our prayers with theirs in our common cause.

This glimpse of the B.C.A. work will remain in memory a long while. Running through the chain is the spiritual link which strengthens the doctor, pilot, and the sisters in their oft-times arduous and lonely tasks. Each night the Scripture is read and the singing of a hymn heard throughout the hospital; the incalculable comfort and benefit to the spirit of this ministry lies beyond words. As the Great Physician whilst on earth saw behind the physical needs to the heart and mind, so this society seeks to follow in the steps of "Him who went about doing good."

Space forbids enlargement on the interest which was aroused by the visits paid to many hospitals passed *en route* to Ceduna.

To one coming from the city and suburban areas where medical aid is within the immediate reach of any person, the boon of the services our bush hospitals render cannot be over-praised or over-estimated.

Behind such service stand the nursing staffs. They are worthy of all the encouragement we can give them. Our movement offers the use of its Rest Room to any when in the city, and to all nurses in our State we extend a very warm invitation to join in with the fellowship which knows no creed but its common need of a Saviour.

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

- "King George V. A Personal Memoir." John Gore.
 "Black Record." Sir Robert Vansittart.
 "In Search of Complications." The Autobiography of a Doctor.
 "Inquest." S. Ingleby Oddie.
 "John McCormack. The Story of a Singer." L. A. G. Strong.

FICTION.

- "Last Year's Rose." Margaret Ferguson.
 "Nothing to Report." Carola Oman.
 "Wait for No Man." Renée Shann.
 "The Cup of Youth." Naomi Jacob.
 "Tadpole Hall." Helen Ashton.
 "Disappearance of a Niece." Katherine Field.
 "Farewell, Leicester Square." Betty Miller.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- "The Story of a Norfolk Farm." Henry Williamson.
 "Citizen and Churchman." William Temple, Archbishop of York.
 "This Sceptred Isle: Shakespeare's Message for England at War." G. Wilson Knight.
 "Who are the Americans?" W. Dwight Whitney.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

UNETHICAL TACTICS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

London, March 31st, 1941.

DEAR MADAM,—When I read the somewhat exuberant article in its official organ, with which the Royal College of Nursing ushers in its 25th anniversary, I caught myself pondering whether the real pioneers towards nursing organisation would peruse it with indignation, contempt or with a kind of grim amusement, that is, if they did read it.

First there comes the old and ever-recurring boast of a large Membership. But how was it obtained? It goes back to the days when, as a nurse once put the case—"I was handed my certificate by Matron with one hand and the application form for the College of Nursing with the other. There was the matter of a private reference from the matron to be taken up inevitably before I should start out on my career, so I joined the College for the sake of expediency and another organisation for the sake of conscience."

Another point that arises is: how many of these hundred new members a month are drafted in from that source of supply, the Student Nurses' Association? In connection with this a young probationer told her aunt (a nurse and opposed to the policy of the College)—"If I do not join this may damage me with Matron. I'll just come out of it after." Then, again, how many joined on the pledge, never fulfilled, that if they became Members of the College they would "automatically and without further fee" be on the State Register when the Nurses' Registration Bill was passed? There are all sorts of ways of collecting a large Membership if only you get together people in power who have some kind of domination, particularly economic, over others. But organisation brought about in this way is an anachronism and fraught with danger. Moreover, it arises not from the free spirit of the nurses and is calculated to bring about decisions arrived at without the true light of knowledge of the facts of the past and the present and, therefore, without free judgment.

Next there is the matter of "the pioneers" referred to in the article. Until wealth and social influence became suddenly available these same "pioneers" were to be found, for the most part, among the chief opponents of nursing organisation and some of their names still stand to-day on the manifestoes against State Registration of Nurses.

Then we read that the College "was instrumental in obtaining State Registration." No mention is there of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the pioneer of the State Registration movement throughout the world. No mention of other valiant spirits who carried the torch thirty years before the College was founded (most of them have passed to the Great Beyond, those who, in the early days, laboured and sacrificed for years in the teeth of opposition). No mention is there of that valiant one—Beatrice Kent—who was able to enlist the support of Sir Richard Barnett. No mention at all of those great days in 1919 when he carried the Nurses' Registration Bill of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses (of which you, Madam, were the indefatigable Hon. Secretary) through the House of Commons with high success, up to its last stages when it was wrecked by the tactics of the College of Nursing. The College had promised its Members that they would have preferential treatment

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)