

same mistake. They do not realise that cleanliness is next to Godliness, and that order is the only sure foundation of scientific nursing. We have all met the constitutional muddler in and out of hospital, and fear the Assistant Nurse will not eliminate her. Good nursing is based on domestic efficiency and we could wish this could be impressed on student nurses. We feel sure it was the speckless cleanliness and meticulous order of cupboards and lockers, of sparkling brasses and gleaming ward furniture which weighted the scale in our favour when appointed Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The Treasurer, Sir Sydney Waterlow, paid our ward at "The London" a surprise visit of inspection. We were proud to "show off" its immaculate order, and we well remember his congratulations when shaking us warmly by the hand as he bid us good-bye.

We regret to note that Mr. E. J. Glavin has resigned the position of General Secretary to the Society of Registered Male Nurses, which he has held so greatly to the advantage of the Society for seven years.

Mr. Glavin stated in his letter of resignation that he had no intention of relaxing his devotion to the causes for which the Society stood.

Mr. Craddock, the Chairman, expressed the regret of members at Mr. Glavin's decision, and reported that it was proposed by the Executive Committee of the Society that Mr. Glavin should be made an hon. member of the Society.

We hear of the sister of a matron whose home has been blasted—roof and doors off and windows and frames blown into the garden—informing her that "she had been loaned a brooding hen and had sat her on nine eggs and had been given two cockerels to fatten for Christmas, if they were not blown away!" Amazing imperturbability! We do hope these plans will materialise for a tasty Christmas! No wonder British pluck is the admiration of the world.

It would appear to be very necessary—if to arrive in time—that Christmas greetings to our colleagues in the Dominions, especially in Australia, should be posted many weeks in advance. Acknowledgment and thanks from National Associations of Nurses, posted in Sydney, dated April and May, were recently received in London in June and July! It is of interest to know that originally there were two national organisations in Australasia—the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association—of which there is a branch in each of the five States of the Commonwealth; and the Royal Victorian College of Nursing, which, as its name implies, functions only in Victoria. The name "Australian Nursing Federation" was adopted for the Federal body, the two organisations retaining their original names for State purposes.

Miss Kellett, C.B.E., R.R.C., Matron of the Sydney Hospital, is President of the Federation; and Miss Jane Bell is the highly-esteemed President of the Victorian Branch—the Royal Victorian College of Nursing—and it will be remembered that as deputy for the President she led the delegation to the International Congress of Nurses at which the Australasian Trained Nurses were admitted to membership.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Nurses' Organisations, both in South Africa and Australia, have of recent years been active in their demands for Parliamentary organisation of Nursing as a profession, and have shown much energy in pressing their claims. Professional rights, however, are not easy for women to attain, and the monumental and valiant struggle of the minority of nurses in Great Britain for 30 years, 1887 to 1919, before their State Registration Bill became law, was proof positive of the power of their employers who did not only object to economic emancipation, but to that power of self-determination and freedom of conscience which must always inspire the advance of humanity, and is much more difficult to control than pounds, shillings and pence!

We have carefully read the draft of what is termed the Nurses' Charter, the Nursing Bill, which provides for autonomy of South African Nurses, the second Reading of which was recently passed without serious opposition in the House of Assembly of the Union of South Africa, and which establishes a Nursing Council for the Organisation and Government of the Nursing Profession in the Union of South Africa, and which includes as nurses, thoroughly trained medical and surgical nurses, fever, sick children's, mental and male nurses, much on the lines of the English Nurses' Registration Act, of 1919.

Hitherto, the nurses in South Africa have been practically governed by the South African Medical Council; in constituting a new Nursing Council the new Act practically places the power of self-Government in the hands of the nurses; this is a great advance.

We gather that the nurses are well satisfied with the professional powers granted to them, and indeed we congratulate our South African colleagues on very substantial powers attained. Let us hope they will realise their responsibility as the status of Nursing as a profession will largely depend in the future upon their conscientious convictions, unselfish interest and devotion to duty. How rapid the evolution of Nursing in South Africa, for the benefit of high standards of national health, skilled care of the sick, and the increase of happiness of its people is attained, will depend on the nurses!

In this connection we would that every nurse in South Africa would study "The Life of Sister Henrietta, of Kimberley, 1847-1911." It is well that the nurses of each country should have their patron saint as an inspiration and example of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty.

Henrietta Stockdale (Sister Henrietta) was an English woman whose skilled service to South Africa cannot be over-estimated. She was lovely and gifted, and a copy of her life, edited by the Dowager Lady Loch and her sister, exquisitely bound in rose colour and gold, is carefully preserved in the "Isla Stewart Memorial Library," at 19, Queen's Gate, London, a part of the History Section of the British College of Nurses, Ltd.

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