

the horizon, whilst misty rays of the departing sun spread fanwise, like a halo in the sky. The beauty is awe-inspiring, and we stand motionless.

Suddenly, the sweetest notes thrill into the stillness. A nightingale trills its song. Lovely pure notes delight the senses, and we are spellbound. Minutes fly and slowly the darkness deepens. The song of the nightingale grows sweeter as the light fades. The air feels chilly. The sun awaits another rosy dawn, and slowly we wend our way homewards.

Peace has stilled the senses and invaded our whole being, and we return, refreshed and quiet.

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Out in the world beyond the seas, famine stalks the earth. There is as yet, no peace, only a sinister cessation of hostilities. Perhaps only the ominous calm before another storm. Who knows? If the peace of the quiet lanes and green meadows could pervade the Council Chambers of the United Nations, all might yet be well for stricken humanity, slowly labouring to rebuild its broken cities and re-form its homes.

Peace is fugitive on the face of the earth; we have lost her from our profession of nursing. She is missing from our deliberations. Only in unity of purpose, and in charity to our neighbours, and in service to our fellowmen, shall we find this elusive peace, and without which we shall perish.

We, as good nurses, must seek peace and spread it abroad amongst people.

G.M.H.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

It is announced that a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will be held on Thursday, June 27th, at 45, Gloucester Place, W.1, at 2.15 p.m..

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY OF EDINBURGH.

NURSES' PRIZE GIVING, May 22, 1946.

On May 22 the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh had their annual visit from His Grace the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Mr. George Mathers, M.P., accompanied by Mrs. Mathers and members of their suite. After visiting wards in the Royal Infirmary and in the Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion they attended the Nurses' Prize Giving and Mrs. Mathers graciously presented the prizes. Mr. Mathers congratulated the prize winners and commended the tradition of service which made the name of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh famous throughout the world and said that he was sure this tradition would continue whatever else might change.

The principal prize winners were Miss Doris E. Myles who gained the Affleck Medal for "Distinction in nursing," Miss E. Y. Sim, the runner up for the medal, Miss J. R. Yule, the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh Nurses League prize for the best all round nurse with previous training, and Miss J. S. Kelly to whom was awarded the Annie Warren Gill prize for the theory and practice of dietetics.

NOTABLE NAMES IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

We have received for review from H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd., a copy of the second edition of "Notable Names in Medicine and Surgery." Short biographies of some of those whose discoveries (not necessarily the greatest medical discoveries) have become eponymous in the medical and allied professions, by Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S.(Eng.), F.I.C.S., and W. J. Bishop, F.L.A., with 238 portraits and other illustrations.

A note states: "Medical history should be discipline for the mind and inculcate into the student a habit whereby in later life he is able to implement the advice of St. Paul to the Thessalonians: "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good."

The authors write in the Preface:—

"The first edition of these selected biographical notes was reviewed by the medical press so favourably as to surprise us, and the edition was exhausted in a few months.

"The second edition has not been altered extensively, but the illustrations have been improved and amplified."

NOTABLE NAMES IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY

This is really a fascinating little book, illustrated with portraits of men whose names have become a household word associated as they are with their medical discoveries in many parts of the world. We have found it most interesting to visualise from the portraits the men whose names will never be forgotten in the evolution of medicine and surgery. We could wish, however, that more discoveries in medicine had been British.

HIPPOCRATES, 460-370 B.C.

"By common consent," it is written "Hippocrates is regarded as the Father of Medicine" and the greatest physician of all time. He was the son of a physician and was born in the island of Cos about 460 B.C. The true practice of medicine began with Hippocrates; it was he who separated the art of healing from superstition and magic.

Hippocrates led a wandering life, practising and teaching in various parts of Greece. He had many pupils, including his two sons. He and his pupils recorded their observations in writing. These descriptions of actual cases are models of clinical records and have been without parallel for nearly two thousand years. Many of the descriptions of diseases, such as phthisis, puerperal septicaemia and epilepsy, might, with very few changes and additions, take their place in any modern textbook. Perhaps his best known description is that of the patient's face when death is near. We to-day apply the term Hippocratic Facies to what is observed in a patient with advanced general peritonitis. "A sharp nose, hollow eyes, collapsed temples, the ears cold," is how Hippocrates began his marvellous description of the facies of impending death. Hippocrates taught that the welfare of the patient is the physician's first consideration, and he framed rules for the conduct of the physician.

The medical profession pay homage to Hippocrates by taking the Hippocratic Oath when they enter the portals of medicine as qualified practitioners.

The portrait of this man of genius presents a magnificent cranium, beautiful eyes, straight nose and generous, placid mouth. It has been pointed out that the traditional picture of the Father of Medicine is largely a conjectural one. . . . An historical Hippocrates did live c. 400 B.C., but there is no evidence that he wrote any of the works of the so-called Hippocratic collection.

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