

for all recognised in him one of the most original of their humorists. Perhaps his lectures in London and his regrettably early death in England may have called attention to his books and made them popular. A man of infinite jest, there was yet a deep feeling at the bottom of all his fun, and when the current of his thoughts ran deepest, laughter rippled on the surface.

He first gained popularity in the rough Western States by his reply when asked, by wire, what he would take for 40 nights' lecturing in California. He promptly wired back that he would take "Brandy and soda." Throughout his books he scatters whimsical advice to young men: "Always live within your means—even if you borrow money to do so." And in many of his works may be met with what might be called the humour of paradox; an excellent example of which was his remark concerning Jefferson Davis "that it would have been a certain £10 in Jeff's pocket if he had never been born."

In Max Adeler one gets the impression of a broad-minded and kindly understanding of human nature which criticises, in an exaggerated but good-natured style, the many little eccentricities and twists that exist in all our natures and which show us that in the broadcast farce there is a large grain of truth. His humour is deliciously quiet and full of the very essence of fun, so that he appears more like a wise and witty philosopher penetrating with the shafts of his mildly tempered cynicism the vulnerable spots of humanity in general.

But he was a man of deep religious feeling and early in his career he gave up humorous writing for more serious literature.

What a long line of witty writers and humorous authors the British Isles has produced—who have left behind them such a widespread reputation for smart humour and sparkling wit, which is a thing to be much coveted for it has been known to extricate its possessor from many an awkward predicament. Sidney Smith, the great wit, once came face to face with a man he particularly wished to avoid. "Well, Smith old man," this particular man called to Smith, "what's going on?" "I am," said Smith, and on he went.

Dr. Mountain gained his preferment by his wit, for when Charles II was sitting with his Ministers, word came to him of the death of the Bishop of Bristol. "Ah!" cried the King, "where shall I find as worthy a man to fill the Bishopric?" The Doctor sprang up and with a low bow explained "If thou hadst faith as a grain of mustard seed thou wouldst say unto *this mountain* be thou removed and cast into the sea." And he got it.

We must not forget there is such a thing as laughing at the wrong time, as was once experienced by a small boy found by his mother crying bitterly. Asked what was the matter, he sobbed out that Daddy was hanging a big picture up in the dining-room and it slipped and fell on Dad's foot and hurt dreadfully. "But," said the little boy's Mother, "you need not have cried about that." "No!" said the small boy, rubbing himself tenderly, "I-I didn't, I-I laughed!!!"

Laughter is as essential to the human economy as any faculty and I think I have said enough to show you that in our laughter we seek not life itself but a refuge from life, and if in the course of my writing I have introduced a little bit of nonsense I remind you that de Quincey has said that "it takes a person with a clever brain to write first-class nonsense"—and an equally clever writer has added that "it takes a first-class brain to appreciate it."

*A little nonsense now and then,
Is relished by the wisest men.*

MARGARET B. MACKELLAR.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

A meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the offices of the Council, 23, Portland Place, London, W., on October 24th. Miss D. M. Smith, Chairman, presided.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £2,100 for weekly Salaries, £100 for Insurance Stamps and £20 for Petty Cash, were allowed for five weeks.

Estimates for printing and stationery to the value of £494 6s. 9d. were accepted.

Registration.

It was agreed that 73 Nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee, and now wished their names be included in the Register should be reincluded.

Education and Examination.

The position of hospitals at present approved as Training Schools, which are unable to comply with the Council's requirement regarding the minimum average occupation of beds, was considered and recommendations were made.

In connection with the withdrawal of approval of Tawe Lodge Infirmary, Swansea, as a Complete Training School for General Nurses, there was a good deal of discussion. It was therefore decided that in future, should a hospital no longer be eligible for approval as a Training School for Nurses, that the Council should be fully informed of all the reasons for the withdrawal of approval before the Council Meeting.

Approval of Hospitals as Training Schools was granted.

Mental Nursing.

Continuation of approval was granted to Complete Training School for Nurses for Mental Diseases, and to a Training School for Nurses for Mental Defectives.

General Purposes.

It was agreed that Miss P. Munday, Senior Sister Tutor at Ashford County Hospital, be appointed as Inspector of Training Schools for the period of one year; and Miss M. F. Hughes be re-appointed in a temporary capacity for three months in the first instance.

It was agreed that £99 be paid for a refrigerator, and £12 be paid for a potato peeler for the Canteen; and that £195 11s. 2d. be paid to Addressograph Multigraph Ltd., for two cabinets (100 drawers each, to hold 46,000 stencil plates).

Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed, in view of the suggestion contained in the Report of the Working Party, that the Roll of Assistant Nurses be closed at an early date, that the Minister of Health be asked to extend the term of office of the present Assistant Nurses Committee for a further period of one year.

It was agreed that 612 applicants whose applications have been found to be in order be approved for enrolment in the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

Disciplinary Cases.

The case of Ellen Olive Cleery, S.R.N. 115003 was before the Council. Miss Cleery had been removed from the Roll of Queen's Nurses for petty thefts. The Council considered the matter and it was decided that her name be removed from the Register of Nurses.

The case of Hannah Josie Joseph, S.R.N. 143134 was before the Council. She had stolen and forged a cheque, and the Council decided that her name be removed from the Register of Nurses.

Next Meeting of the Council.

The date of the next Meeting was fixed for November 28th.

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