

to be done before the fictitious character could become wholly self-expressive. This work was performed by Samuel Richardson (1689-1761). Richardson, who was an inveterate letter writer, was asked by two booksellers to write a series of letters which would serve as a guide to the art of letter writing. He undertook the work and the result was his first novel, "Pamela" (1740), which was a story told through the medium of letters written by the characters. The novels of Richardson are little read to-day. Richardson was a moralist, and like a number of moralists of his time was extremely sentimental. Both "Pamela" and the later "Clarissa" deal with the thoughts and the emotions of their heroines in circumstances which threaten their virtue. The type of sentiments which the novels were intended to stimulate is clearly indicated by the sub-title of "Pamela" which is "Or Virtue Rewarded." So rancid, indeed, was the sentimentality of Richardson in this novel, and so priggish his approach to the moral question that Fielding satirised the work in his own immortal "Joseph Andrews" which was supposed to tell the story of Pamela's brother in similar circumstances of moral stress. Fielding's satire, like all the satire of the eighteenth century, was merciless, but there is as much fun to be had from the book to-day as there was when Fielding first wrote it. Such is the eternal freshness of the work of that great man. But to return to Richardson. Notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages of his approach, he had great powers of penetration into human nature, and through the mirror of his novels he revealed character to a depth that had never been reached in the novel before. Clarissa is a great tragic heroine who has the power to express herself in a fashion that is both convincing and deeply moving. Richardson, for all his faults, was one of the great geniuses of the eighteenth century.

Thus far, then, are we able to bring our theme within the period assigned. The story is by no means complete. Great names like those of Jane Austen, the Brontës, Scott, and Thackeray, remain to speak of the bringing of the English Novel to its greatest range, and there are the writers of the present century who have reflected the adventure of human life in the light of modern psychology. I have spoken here only of the amalgamation, the development of the nerves and the sinews of this great and popular art form. But perhaps it is within these early stages of experiment and accident that the greatest romance lies.

FRANCIS EDWARDS.

National Foot Health Week.

Britain's first National Foot Health Week will be launched on June 12th with a four-day Exhibition at the Central Hall, Westminster, S.W.1. The Exhibition will be opened by Sir William Jameson, K.C.B., G.B.E., Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

The purpose of the National Foot Health Week is to focus the attention of the public on the need for care of feet and care of footwear.

The people will be told these disturbing facts :—

More than half the population of Britain have defective feet which reduce their capacity for work, or militate against robust health.

Through ignorance and the lack of simple commonsense care our children are developing foot defects which later in life will become serious handicaps.

Many women are playing havoc with their carriage and figure by wearing unsuitable footwear; headaches, poor circulation, nervous upsets and pain in the back may be aggravated by foot ailments, most of which are preventable,

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 January 27th, 1950.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

With the Countess of Limerick, representative of the Privy Council, presiding, Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., was elected as Chairman for a further term of office.

Miss C. A. Alexander, Vice-Chairman, was re-elected for a further term of office.

Deficit on Test of Assistant Nurses.

The Chairman reported a loss of £1,361 on the Test carried out in connection with the Assistant Nurse, and that the Minister of Health had been approached for a Treasury Grant.

A reply was reported from the Minister that he has no funds with which he could reimburse the Council.

As there is an increased number of entries for the March Test, it was agreed that the matter be sent back to the Finance Committee for further consideration.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved and the sums of £2,700 for Cash Account, and £500 for postage were allowed.

In view of the decision of the Minister that the Election of Council and the Election of the Mental Nurses Committee should not be held concurrently, the Committee have reconsidered the fee to be paid to the Returning Officer, and it was agreed that the fee be increased to 275 guineas.

Registration.

It was reported that one further supplement to the Register—January to December, 1949—be published, and that lists will be published three times a year covering the periods January 1st to April 30th, May 1st to August 31st, and September 1st to December 31st.

It was agreed that the names of 6,102 nurses who have not paid their retention fees for 1950 be removed from the Register; and that 79 nurses have their names removed from the List of Nurses.

Education and Examination.

The procedure to be laid down under Section 12 (1) of the Nurses Act, 1949, for the withdrawal of approval of Hospitals as Training Schools was considered *in camera*.

Approval of schemes of affiliation were withdrawn; approval of Hospitals as complete Training Schools was granted; and Pre-Nursing Courses, as recommended by the Ministry of Education, were approved.

Mental Nurses.

Also considered *in camera*—the procedure to be laid down under Section 12 (1) of the Nurses Act, 1949.

General Purposes.

Standing Orders for the Registrar having been drafted, were approved by Council.

Disciplinary Cases.

Disciplinary Cases were considered with the Council's Solicitor in attendance, and the case of Winifred Clara Nichols, S.R.N., R.F.N., upon which judgment was postponed for a year, was dismissed with a caution. The name of Patricia Mary Day, S.R.N., 160679, was removed from the Register of Nurses.

Next Meeting of the Council.

The date of the next meeting of the Council was fixed for February 24th.

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