

3. Election of *one* nurse registered in the part of the Register for Sick Children's Nurses.

ANDREWS, EVELYN MARY, S.R.N. 119519, R.S.C.N. 2470. Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

LANE, DOROTHY ANNIE, S.R.N. 6951, R.S.C.N. 125. Hospital for Sick Children, Gt. Ormond Street, London.

The British College of Nurses, Ltd.

A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Wednesday, March 29th, 1950, at 2 p.m.

The President, Miss Helena McLoughlin, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., was in the Chair.

Prayers having been read, the minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

In the correspondence considered, the Council unanimously agreed, on learning of the decreased income of a very loyal supporter of the College, who, for many years has worked in the Dominions (now retired), that a donation of 10s. weekly be awarded to her.

The news received from a Fellow overseas of her decision to come to the Old Country for a month's holiday was received with pleasure and the Council was happy to arrange for her to be given hospitality while in London.

The Lord Mayor's National Thanksgiving Fund.

In proposing that a donation be sent direct from the British College of Nurses, Ltd., to the Lord Mayor's National Thanksgiving Fund, the President dwelt at some length on how deeply all Fellows and Members of the College appreciated the extraordinary kindness and generosity shown by our Dominion colleagues in their food gifts during the difficult years and the wonderful spirit which has inspired them.

It was unanimously agreed that a donation be sent.

Election of Fellows and Members.

Applications for membership of the College were received and all the applicants were elected.

Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was presented and adopted.

Florence Nightingale Brick.

At the close of the meeting the President welcomed Miss Herminia Correia Ribeiro, a Portuguese Nurse who is studying in London, and who, shortly returning to Lisbon, has volunteered to take the Brick to Miss Fernanda Alves Diniz, Director of the Escola Técnica de Enfermeiras—the Nursing School.

In giving the Florence Nightingale Brick into Miss Ribeiro's charge for transport to Lisbon, the President said how pleased they were to see her, and that the Council would like her to convey to Miss Fernanda Alves Diniz their best wishes for the continued success of their Nursing School to which the Brick is presented.

The Meeting then terminated.

Date of Next Lecture.

The last of the present course of Lectures by Mr. F. P. Edwards will take place on Wednesday, May 17th, at 4.45 p.m., the subject of which will be on Poetry.

Fellows, Members and friends will, as usual, be welcome to tea at 4 p.m., which precedes the Lecture.

More About "The Drama."

A Lecture delivered on March 29th.

WHEN I LAST TALKED TO YOU on the subject of the drama I spoke of the "fall" in relation to tragedy and comedy. This afternoon I intend to particularize a little more and speak of the type of "fall" in comedy which sets characters at cross purposes.

When people are at cross purposes they are usually thrown off their guard and reveal salient characteristics which they would normally wish to restrain. The uneven tempered person easily falls into a frenzy of anger, the suspicious person accuses over-readily, the proud person puts himself very much on his dignity, and so on. The spectacle of such follies as these, particularly when they are revealed with insufficient cause, has stirred the human sense of the ludicrous for as long as civilization has been known, and, just as it provides much of the fun of everyday life, so it forms an integral part of comedy on the stage. It is this sense of the ludicrous in the follies of others which is my main theme this afternoon, and I propose to lead the way into it by means of a simple illustration using our old figure of the man falling over a bucket of whitewash.

Assume, then, that a bucket of whitewash is left somewhere in a builder's yard, and that a bricklayer named Fred who is accompanied by his mate, Harry, falls over the bucket and is plastered with a sticky mess of whitewash. Now let us suppose that Fred is one of those people to whom the most important thing in times of stress is to find some person to blame. He gets to his feet, glares at his mate Harry and says: "Who left that bucket there?" Harry, of course, is as ignorant in the matter as the unfortunate Fred, but he does not say so. Suddenly seized by the spirit of mischief, he replies: "I don't know, Fred, but I saw old George wandering about this part of the yard about ten minutes ago." Off goes the irate Fred in search of George followed by a gleeful and expectant Harry who did not see George in the yard ten minutes ago, but who knows that old George is the man whom Fred hates most. We will suppose that Fred finds George working quietly in the paint shop, that he enters angrily in accusing mood. Harry takes up a safe position outside the paintshop at the window to enjoy the following dialogue:

FRED: Did you leave that bucket of whitewash in the middle of the yard, you old idiot?

GEORGE: Who's an old idiot?

FRED: You are.

GEORGE: Oh no I'm not, and don't you come in here abusing me. What are you in such a tearing rage about anyway?

FRED: I've just fallen over a bucket of whitewash.

GEORGE: I'm dashed if you don't look as though you had. You ought to keep your eyes open, or else take more water with your liquor.

FRED: Are you suggesting that I'm drunk?

GEORGE: Well, it wouldn't be beyond you, would it? I remember only last week—

and so on. You can well imagine, can you not, that Harry's enjoyment could go on for some time without either of the contestants becoming aware that their quarrel was a storm in a teacup. The men are far too ready to provoke and to be provoked to anger, are far too much the slaves of their old dislike for each other to submit their quarrel to the tests of fact and probability. So they abuse each other into that mood in which young men fight and older men threaten each other with the law, much to the joy of Harry.

Now Harry occupies an important position in the example I have given you, for he represents one of the prevailing spirits in human life, the spirit of mischief. I shall define mischief as that which consciously sets up stress in life, or in other words, that which consciously produces a "fall."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)