
THE INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC GUILD OF NURSES.

The Second Annual Retreat and Conference of the International Catholic Guild of Nurses was held in May last at Spring Bank, Okankee, Wisconsin.

"The purpose of the Guild may be summed up in the words 'Charity, Scholarship, Opportunity,' for it's members and those whom it influences." The Guild will be glad of some representatives among members of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, and any nurses wishing to enroll as members of the Guild can apply to the Editor of the *Nursing Journal of India* for the constitutions and application forms, which contain all necessary information regarding membership, fees, etc.

Applications for membership should be made to Father E. F. Garesche, S.J., 124-13th St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States of America.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES.

THE AIMS OF A PROFESSIONAL JOURNAL.

BY MRS. CHESNEY.

(Read at the Congress of the International Council of Nurses.)

A PROFESSIONAL Journal should aim at being "classical," *i.e.*, universal and perpetual, with due regard to the fundamental law that "Action and Re-action are equal and opposite," therefore the broadness, or narrowness of its outlook, determines the amount of action for or against its policy. It should aim therefore at recording faithfully all that is being done, or is proposed to be done in the profession, and in addition it should be an organ for discussion and criticism.

The aim of a Nursing Journal should be to record the history of nursing day by day, week by week, month by month, and the development in the science and practice of the profession.

It should record its organizations, and its activities, its aims and ideals, and the means proposed, or adopted for realizing them, that the reader of the Journal be in the best possible position for forming his own opinion on these matters.

As every fresh step taken in professional matters must be, in its first stage, largely experimental, it is most important that there should be impartial, unbiassed judgment, and judicious weighing of merits, also the faithful recording of rival, and opposite theories or organisations. This will give the public confidence in the belief that both sides are being faithfully and fairly dealt with.

It is advisable that judgments should be suspended, and simple truth to fact aimed at only, until any matter involving action or opinion has reached that final stage, where it may be considered to have been thoroughly thrashed out, and then the case for and against should be dealt with in such an impartial manner that the verdict of the Journal should be universally considered authoritative.

It will be obvious that the person or persons responsible for the conduct of a Nursing Journal should be themselves trained nurses, and should be so thoroughly versed in all matters connected with the profession, so well equipped with knowledge of its various branches, that their presentation of news to be recorded is in its manner and method itself an appraisal of its value.

Success in the collection of information will be supplemented by careful discrimination in dealing with information volunteered and contributed, in guiding discussion in the shape of correspondence in the criticism of literature and proceedings, and finally, as I have said before, the Journal must be a reliable record, affording all possible material for the formation of sound judgments.

THE HEALTH VISITOR IN INDIA.

BY COLONEL BLACKHAM, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E. D.S.O., M.D., etc.

(Concluded from page 190.)

3. THE SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES OF THE HEALTH VISITOR IN INDIA.

The Health Visitor in India is confronted by many difficulties which are unknown to her more fortunate sisters in the West. Apart from ignorance which is by no means peculiar to the East, there are five factors which are more or less special to India.

- (1) The Native midwives.
- (2) Immaturity of mothers.
- (3) Bad housing and overcrowding.
- (4) Indian Social customs.
- (5) Poverty and scarcity of milk.

In this country the H. V. has to work with a body of qualified, registered and supervised midwives usually of high intelligence, but in the East the first and most important difficulty with which she has to contend is the fact that for centuries custom has consigned the care of all parturient women to the ignorance and superstition of an hereditary caste of illiterate untrained women called *dais*.

The notion of the Hindu that a woman at the supreme hour of her existence is a source of defilement to others, determines the entourage of the confinement.

The scene of labour is usually a small dark room, almost devoid of all means of entrance for light and air.