

Nursing Echoes.

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HIS Royal Highness the Duke of CAMBRIDGE, during his late visit to Nottingham, inspected the General Hospital of the town. He was received there by Mr. J. W. LEAVERS (the President), Mr. JOSEPH WHITE, the Rev. R. HOLDEN, Mr. F. ACTON, Mr. W. F. FOX, Mr. JAMES FORMAN, and Mr. T. A. HILL (members of the Weekly Board), Mr. J. P. GRAY and Mr. ALFRED WARING (resident Medical Officers), and Miss G. KNIGHT (the Matron). His Royal Highness was conducted round the male accident wards. To each of the patients he addressed a few remarks, and altogether he showed much interest in the nature of the accident from which each patient was suffering. He also made many interested inquiries about the Nursing staff, and expressed special approval at the general arrangement of the Nurses' rooms. The distinguished visitor then accepted Miss KNIGHT'S hospitality, joining her at tea in her own rooms. Before leaving he wrote in the Matron's book as follows:—

"December 13th, 1893.—I have visited this Hospital to-day, and cannot leave it without expressing my great satisfaction at the admirable condition in which I have found it, doing great credit to all the medical and other officers who have charge of it, including the most amiable and efficient Matron and her staff, who appear to me to be invaluable in supporting the medical officers in their arduous duties.

GEORGE."

THIS is especially gratifying. First of all, because, ten years ago, it is probable that the Royal visit to the Hospital would have taken place, and the Matron, although the responsible head of the Nursing department, would have remained unrecognised—even had she been *suffered* to be present. We well remember our astonishment, some years ago, when going round these same wards with the then thoroughly trained and most efficient Matron, seeing her hurry out of the ward on the entrance of the surgeon, and, upon enquiring, being told by her, rather bitterly, "that he considered her best employed looking after her blankets."

AGAIN, it is gratifying to note that Miss GERTRUDE KNIGHT is an early and staunch Member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and, therefore, an advocate of progress and organization in Nursing matters.

DURING the short period in which she has been Matron of the General Hospital, Nottingham, the Committee have, acting upon her professional advice and experience, made several reforms. The three years standard of education has been adopted, with certification after theoretical and practical instruction and examination. A Night Superintendent has been appointed, and also a trained Nurse as Housekeeper, and Nottingham will doubtless soon rank, in popular estimation, with the sister Hospitals of Lincoln and Leicester. It must, indeed, be very encouraging to the Royal British Nurses' Association to see its high standard for Nurses being inaugurated in so many of the large County Hospitals of the kingdom.

SISTER ALICE writes:—

"Madam,—I have been greatly pleased to read your remarks pithily headed 'The Nurse Pays,' and shall be grateful if you can spare space for my few remarks. I listened to a sermon a few Sundays back in a parish church in a London suburb, in which the Vicar referred to this system with immense complacency at utilizing the fees received for the Private Nurse's labour to support the District Nurses. I beg to enclose you a copy of the Institution referred to. I have ascertained that many of these Private Nurses receive salaries varying from £18 to £25, and are charged for at current rates, so you will see that the profits must be considerable. Many abuses spring from this system, and the sweating of the Nurses is not the most significant, as, considering their qualifications, many of these women are dear at the price, their training and knowledge being infinitesimal, as experienced Nurses, of course, will not accept such miserable remuneration. But is it not a heartless proceeding on the part of the managers of this Institution to recommend these untrained women to the public? And the injury it does to Nurses who know their work, and honour their profession, is not to be estimated."

MISS MARY OWENS, Private Nurse, writes:—

"The Nurse Pays, and has paid too long, in health and L.S.D. Allow me, dear Madam, to thank you for drawing attention to this system, whereby the trained Nurse is made to pay for the Nursing of the sick poor in their own homes, and in support of our Hospitals. I was, for some years, attached to a Nursing Institution, the committee of which was entirely composed of unprofessional persons, many holding influential positions and possessing great wealth. After years of work I only received £20 per annum. I was with one cancer case alone for two years, on duty night and day, getting catches of sleep when able. Of that, I do not complain, but I do bitterly resent that £210 was paid to the committee for my services, of which I received £40, and that my health was greatly undermined by the strain. Why are trained Nurses so devoid of self-respect that they continue to allow such Institutions to exist? Why do they not benefit by the independence of the domestic classes? Who ever heard of Dukes and Duchesses and millionaires sitting on Committees for the purpose of providing domestic servants at a minimum wage? Should such an arrangement be made, what an e'ysium for the householder—a butler, cook, lady's-maid. Upon the payment of a guinea per week, the services of these necessary evils could be obtained—the domestics themselves receiving £20 per annum—and if they are not absolutely perfect beings, return them with thanks and have another; all profits to swell a municipal fund for replacing breakages in these happy households! I once nursed the son and heir, suffering from typhoid fever, in a house where the

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