

Nursing Echoes.

* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



THE Queen Victoria Nurses' Institute at Reading, was opened on Friday, November 5th. In the unavoidable absence of Princess Christian, who is the patroness of the Institute, the ceremony was performed by the Mayoress of Reading, Mrs. William Ferguson. It will be remembered that in addition to some £3000 subscribed to endow the Institute, besides promises of annual subscriptions, Messrs. Sutton, whose generosity is proverbial, offered a house, for five years, as a Nurses' Home, and upon the acceptance of their offer, carried out at their own cost the necessary alterations. The house has also been furnished by Mr. M. J. Sutton.

At the public meeting which followed the opening ceremony, the Mayor, who presided, read the following telegram from Sir Arthur Bigge:—

"The Queen is gratified to know that the Queen Victoria Nurses' Institute is to be opened to-day in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. Her Majesty trusts that all possible success may attend its work, which has Her Majesty's sympathy."

The Mayor telegraphed back a dutiful acknowledgment of this message.

THE Queen's Commemoration Fund for the Queen's Jubilee Institute for Nurses now amounts to £70,000.

THE Queen of Portugal has been lately making a journey through the kingdom in order to visit all the hospitals and nursing establishments. Her Majesty, who has studied medicine seriously, has found the hospitals in a very bad state, and she is now, with the help of some medical men, working out a plan of reforms. The Queen also means to establish institutions for the training of lay nurses, to which any girl may belong, and we understand that Nursing Schools will be established on a scientific basis. This is indeed good news for the sick and suffering Portuguese. Hitherto the nursing of the sick in Portugal has been exclusively in the hands of religious orders, who have done good service, before nursing was recognized as a scientific calling demanding a special and thorough training. We have no doubt that the religious communities will conform to modern standards and methods when these are set before them.

THE *Charity Record* is, we consider, justly severe on Sir Henry Burdett's suggestion that nurses

should enter into "business arrangements" with publishers for the sale of subscription books and stamp albums for the benefit of the Prince of Wales's Fund. The *Charity Record* remarks:—

"Nurses are not quite the babes and sucklings as to swallow all the goody-goody stuff hashed up for them in the *Nursing Mirror*. We mention the paper, for we have been specially asked for information respecting the proposal in it, to make nurses collectors and commission agents for hospitals. Briefly, the scheme was to raise small sums for the Prince of Wales's Fund by means of 'a subscription book and stamp album.' The subscriber would purchase of the nurse a hospital stamp and affix it in the subscription book. 'Of course, these subscription books and stamp albums with the stamps, which will be on sale by chemists, booksellers, stationers, newsagents, and stampsellers, will be supplied to the public through these channels under a business arrangement made with the publishers.' So says the *Nursing Mirror*, which adds it is 'proposed that a similar business arrangement shall be effected between the nurses and the publishers.' This was three weeks ago, and the nurses were then invited to hurry up before it was too late, and were promised fuller details in a week. But apparently the sisters and nurses who were appealed to did not approve of the business arrangement, whereby they would be made touters something like the Saturday Fund lady street collectors; and as they did not rush in great numbers for the 'precedence' offered to applicants we may conclude that the scheme, like many others from the same source, has not caught on. Anyhow the publication of fuller details was not forthcoming as promised."

THE Prince of Wales's kind personal interest in the welfare of our voluntary charities is well known, and any fund over which he presides will, no doubt, receive public support. There is no need to depreciate the success of the fund by having recourse to objectionable means of raising money. The best work our nurses can do for the hospitals is to be able to report from personal experience that their own treatment, and the treatment of the sick poor, is absolutely satisfactory within the hospitals—such reports will open more purse strings than any "business arrangements." Nurses who can report with truth to the public that their nursing education is defective, their hours too long, and their food insufficient, deprive those excellent institutions of more subscriptions than can be easily estimated.

It is with sincere pleasure that we hear that the typhoid epidemic is abating at Maidstone, and that many of the patients are now convalescent, so that the number of district nurses is to be reduced.

THE first batch of convalescents, numbering about seventy, arrived at Sandgate on Saturday afternoon, and two hundred others will follow during the week. They are located at "Beach Rocks," the London Samaritan Society's Convalescent Home, a beautiful building on the sea front. They travelled in through carriages kindly placed at the disposal of the

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