

**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\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 names of the Sisters who received certificates and badges of the corps of Queen Alexandra's Naval Service at Devonport, are Head Sister Miss Anna French, and Sisters Annie Macpherson, Evangelina E. Harte, Sarah K. Maxwell, Ethel R. Whittington, Agnes Allsopp, Norah M. E. Johnston, Katherine M. Hickey, and Florence Belcher. The new badge is very tasteful—hitherto the Navy Sisters have worn on their right arm the Geneva Cross (red) on a white cloth background—on the new badge are added the initials A. A. above the cross entwined with an anchor, surmounted by an Imperial Crown, embroidered with gold and silver thread and red silk on a background of blue.

The Cornish county nurses, who were also received on board the Royal yacht, were presented to Queen Alexandra by the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, and passed before Their Majesties, preceded by the Countess of St. Germans, Lady Margaret Boscawen, and Miss Michie, the county superintendent. There were eight Queen's nurses and 23 village nurses, and the Queen graciously shook hands with each as she passed. The Miss Michie mentioned in this paragraph is a native of Auchleven, Premnay, and is a most able and popular superintendent of the County Nurses of Cornwall.

A well attended meeting in connection with the Women's Memorial to Queen Victoria was recently held at Wellington, when Miss Amy Hughes (Inspector of Nurses for the Queen's Jubilee Institute), gave an address on the rise and development of District Nursing.

The Lambeth Guardians have decided to provide the nurses at the Workhouse Infirmary with a free library of works of light literature and books of reference. This course has been adopted because of the fear of some guardians that the bringing of books from outside free libraries into the infirmary during the present epidemic of small-pox might result in the introduction of the disease into the infirmary.

Speaking at the half-yearly board of governors of the Bristol General Hospital, Mr. J. Storrs Fry said:—"Joined with the best medical and surgical skill the patients received, the committee desired to cultivate a spirit of Christian kindness and gentleness towards those who came there for treatment, and among the staff to one another. They were indebted to the Matron and those associated with her for the sympathetic spirit with which they carried out their duties."

We may be wrong, but sometimes it seems to us that the "sympathetic spirit" which inspires the highest form of nursing is not always cultivated to perfection in these utilitarian days. How one appreciates a kind word and look from those about one, when ill and down on one's luck. At least *we* do.

The good work of Miss Shirley, Lady Superintendent of the Staffordshire Institution for Nurses at Stoke-on-Trent, is so well known that we are in no way surprised to find how greatly it is appreciated by her Committee, nor to read in the Thirtieth Annual Report:—

"That Miss Shirley should still continue to superintend the Home, and to exert her long experience and great influence to uphold its character, gives the best assurance for its future. Her task is heavy and complicated; but it is discharged from such high motives, and with such a perfect understanding of a Nurse's duties, a doctor's requirements, and a Patient's needs, that she is trusted by all alike, and the Institution which she directs takes rank among the foremost of its kind in the country."

The substantial sum of £5,994 has been earned by the nurses during the year, and we are very pleased to learn that at the last Annual Meeting it was resolved that the Nurses should receive a percentage on their earnings at the same rate as in the previous year; and accordingly out of the balance to credit at the end of 1900 a sum of £785 14s. 9d. was apportioned amongst them. The Committee express themselves as happy to be able to recognise in this way the faithful services of their Nurses, and to make them sharers, in a substantial measure, of the year's surplus of income over expenditure, realising that it is owing to the high respect in which they are held that their work is so continuous, and that at times the demand for them is beyond what can be met.

Last week we gave some account of the paper read by Miss Gibson, Matron of the Birmingham Infirmary, on "The Scarcity of Nurses in Workhouse Infirmarys, its Cause and Cure." In connection with Miss Gibson's suggestion that probationers should be bound for four or five years to the

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