

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



It is surely a great reflection upon the public that Irish Nurses should be so inadequately paid that the promoters of King Edward the Seventh's Coronation National Fund for Nurses in Ireland contemplate their being dependent *en masse* on the alms of the charitable in sickness and old age. We have no doubt that the intentions of those who are supporting the Fund are of the kindest, but we fear its effect will be to undermine the precious virtue of thrifty self respect in these women workers. Why should not women as well as men be paid a living wage, and one which will enable them to maintain themselves in their old age? We should like to see the salaries of Irish nurses raised, and it might well be that a certain period of faithful service should entitle them to a pension from the State in the same way as Government officials, even those who attain to Cabinet rank, are pensioned. This, in our view, would be much preferable to a charitable allowance. We are glad to note that, speaking at the public meeting in Dublin in connection with the Coronation scheme, Lord Justice Fitzgibbon said they must remember that the nurses had, and rightly had, a high opinion of the dignity of their own profession, and they would resent and be indignant at the idea of the foundation of a charity fund for their relief. He trusted that the Committee appointed to deal with the scheme would associate with themselves the heads of the nursing profession, and consult the prejudices, if they would, of the nurses themselves.

Drip, drip, swish, swish, the rain poured steadily down, but inside the Chelsea Infirmary all was bright and cheerful when a representative of the RECORD recently paid it a visit. The Matron, Miss Barton, is keenly interested in her work, and expressed her pleasure in poor law work in a way which is refreshing to hear. It was evident on visiting the wards, which are bright and well kept, that the relations between the Matron and the nursing staff are most cordial, and that the patients are happy and well cared for. The Nurses' Home, a comparatively new addition, is comfortably furnished and arranged, and each nurse has a

separate bedroom, while there is a bathroom on each floor. The dining-room and sitting-room are both most cheery, and the chapel, in which prayers are said every day and service held on Sunday, is reverently appointed.

Miss Barton is much interested in the latest development of nursing organization in this country, the formation of Leagues of graduate nurses in connection with their training schools, and on Saturday, the 21st inst., hopes to inaugurate one of the Chelsea Infirmary nurses. A meeting is to be then held to consider the question, and from the enthusiasm which evidently prevails on the subject there is little doubt of its being brought to a successful issue, and of definite action being taken.

The *British Medical Journal* raises a point of interest in connection with the procedure of superintendents of nursing homes. "Recently," our contemporary states, "our attention was called by a correspondent to an advertisement card issued by a lady keeping a nursing home in London; endorsed in writing on this card, under the heading 'Surgeons' were the names of two well-known London surgeons. On receipt of this communication we communicated with the two gentlemen whose names were endorsed on the card, and they have both informed us that they were unaware of the course taken by the keeper of the home; that they had merely sent cases to the home in the ordinary way, and that they strongly objected to the use made of their names. One of the surgeons concerned instructed his solicitor in the matter; the lady has now signed a letter expressing her regret and apologising, and stating that the mistake was made in all innocence, and without appreciating the fact that such use of the name was open to misconstruction." It would be interesting to know if the "keeper of the home" were a trained nurse.

Last week Mrs. J. Patterson Cobbold distributed the prizes they had gained in a recent examination to nurses at the East Suffolk Hospital. Mr. F. W. Mason, who presided, said that the results of the examination were very creditable. During the winter a series of lectures had been given to the probationary nurses, the theoretical ones being undertaken by the house surgeon, and those on practical nursing subjects by the Matron, Miss Deane.

Nurses Jay, Morland, and Browse, who had come out at the head of the list in the examination, were then presented by Mrs. Cobbold with medical or nursing books as prizes. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mrs. Cobbold, in a short address, compared nursing in the present day with that of half a century ago. She referred

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