

Nursing Echoes.

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For some unknown and quite unreasonable reason, great reticence has been maintained about the names of the nurses who have been attending His Majesty the King in his present illness. We learn from *St. Mary's Hospital Gazette* that "On the 15th of June a telegram was received from Sir Francis Laking summoning Sister Victoria, or in her absence another Sister, to attend on His Majesty. Sister Victoria being away on sick leave, Miss Morrison, the Home Sister, was selected to go to Aldershot, where she was retained in readiness for any emergency. She then went to Windsor, and afterwards to Buckingham Palace, but was not called upon until the operation to attend the King, for which she prepared the room, and at which she was present. As Sir Frederick Treves was then attended by his own nurses, she returned to St. Mary's on the 24th, having been thanked for her services by Sir Frederick and Sir Francis Laking."

Miss Alice Tarr, the permanent nurse assistant of Sir Frederick Treves, has, we believe, with Nurses Fletcher and Haines, taken some part in the care of the King. It is interesting to note that it is reported that this is the first time that His Majesty has had occasion to avail himself of professional nursing, as during his terrible illness in the autumn of 1871, when the then Prince of Wales nearly lost his life with enteric fever, he was entirely nursed by his devoted physicians, by the Princess of Wales, and by his sister Princess Alice, who had had a great deal of actual experience during the course of the Franco-Prussian War.

No doubt when His Majesty is entirely convalescent the names of his nurses will be made public, as presumably they will share in some of the honours and awards to be freely given to those who have by their skill and devotion to duty done all in their power to save the King's life.

The meeting held in support of the London School Nurses' Society at 54, Mount Street, the beautiful town house of Lady Windsor—who has recently accepted the position of President, and who in that capacity occupied the chair—was not as largely attended as it should have been if the public generally understood the immense value of

the work the Society is attempting to accomplish for the benefit of the community at large.

The aim of the Society is to provide a visiting trained nurse for the Board schools. In the poorest districts of London the children come to school in a dirty and verminous condition; they also suffer from innumerable ailments, each of which taken singly might perhaps be described as trivial, but which, if taken collectively, represent a large amount of suffering.

Mrs. Homan, L.S.B., who is a member of the Committee, pleaded most eloquently for the better care of these poor children, and said the Society's nurses were engaged in endeavouring to cure the maladies from which the children were suffering. They attended the schools at regular intervals, and cleansed and healed the sores and wounds of the children. In the great majority of cases the parents as well as the children greatly appreciated what was done for them. The nurses were on the watch for signs of the earliest stages of infectious disease, which a preoccupied teacher might overlook, and which would certainly be overlooked by ignorant parents. When these signs were noticed the children were placed under proper medical care, and were not suffered to be sources of danger to their schoolmates. The Society was very much hampered by the fact that it had insufficient funds to cover the ground that it ought to be able to cover. They were only able to employ three full-time nurses and two who worked two afternoons a week; and with these they could only touch a very small fringe of the work which ought to be done for the school children of London.

Mr. Lyulph Stanley, in moving a vote of thanks to Lady Windsor, pointed out that the Society was a purely voluntary one. When he had visited schools abroad and schools in the great towns of England, especially in London, he felt that in some way the standard of civilisation of our working classes was below that of the working classes in the great continental towns. We erred in our schools in not laying sufficient stress upon cleanliness and upon the personal condition of the children. Public action was needed to raise the ideal of what ought to be the condition of the children and of the home. He alluded to the work of the School Board for London in this direction, and said that if the work of education was to be well done the physical as well as the moral and mental welfare of the children must be looked to by the school boards and their successors. With an income of £500 a year the Society could afford to employ nine or ten nurses, which would enable them to cover the schools in the very poorest parts of London.

The average total cost of visiting a school is about £3 a year. It seems probable that the

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