

Nursing Echoes.

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The Queen has sent a donation of £10 to the treasurer of the King's Lynn Nursing Association, which is affiliated to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

Miss Florence Nightingale recently celebrated the eighty-fourth anniversary of her birth. The event was made the occasion of many congratulatory telegrams and messages, and the number of afternoon callers at 10, South Street, Park Lane, was very numerous. Miss Nightingale, who continues to enjoy fairly good health and to take an active interest in works of charity, was engaged with her private secretary as usual during the morning, and the celebration of her birthday was of the quietest possible description.

Miss Clara Barton has resigned the presidency of the American Red Cross Society. Mrs. John A. Logan will be her successor.

Preaching on the "Thanksgiving Day" at the London Foundling Hospital on the subject of kindness, the Bishop of Oxford gave the definition of the word as the will and watchfulness to make others glad, the inward grace which made the difference between courtesy and mere good manners, the dread of giving needless pain, the hopeful expectation of finding extenuating circumstances, the patience that gave others time and opportunity to get right, the skill which offered plans for getting right without loss of self-respect, the cheerful confidence that people meant well, the good temper, the insight, and inexactness which principals displayed in their business dealings with others and in guarding the happiness of home.

A letter by Lady Victoria A. Lambton, in the *Guardian* recently, on Village Nursing is full of admirable common sense. In regard to the statement of a writer in the same journal that the Holt-Ockley system of resident nurses is "the cheapest system of nursing yet invented," she says "this statement is open to question both as to fact and also as to whether the cheapest can ever be the best." From her "experience of poor folk in country villages, it does not seem the simplest thing for them to provide food and lodging for a nurse at any time, much less if money is scarce because the working-man is

laid low, or when the wife is the patient and unable to attend to her domestic affairs, nor even if the patient is a child who needs perhaps the unusual luxury of a bed to itself. The difficulty of overcrowding is a real one, and 'that the resident nurse has often to share her patient's bed is a fact, and a very undesirable one.' The writer claims for the Queen's Jubilee Nurses that 'they do everything for the sick poor as to nursing that the Holt-Ockley nurses do—ay, and more—and more efficiently, being better trained and better nurses. They do not undertake and are not intended to be maids-of-all-work, or to undertake work which experience proves can almost always be as well, or better, done by a relation or neighbour.' It was the wish of her late Majesty 'that the sick poor should be as well nursed in their own homes as were her more fortunate subjects,' and this is the object that those responsible for Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute bear in mind and endeavour to carry out. 'The Queen's legacy to her poor subjects was trained nurses, not domestics.'

It is noteworthy that the success of the Nurses' Co-operation has been so continuous that all those members who joined before 1898 now receive their gross earnings less only 5 per cent.

Speaking at the Hull Jubilee District Nursing Association, Dr. Nicholson, in appealing to his fellow-townsmen for more money, said he knew something of the work the nurses were doing, and so highly did the poor people appreciate their ministrations that they referred to them as "angels of light." They could do with double their present number of nurses.

Mr. Wardley, of Sheffield, objects to "bosses"; in opposing the suggestion to add to the medical aid at Lodge Moor Hospital he said as there was a nurse to every two patients it was unnecessary, and, moreover, the doctor bossed the hospital too much—he talked about "my nurses, my maids, my this, and my everything."

This is a common habit of speech amongst medical superintendents, and, indeed, other superior hospital officials are not free from this somewhat objectionable custom.

The Irish Nurses' Association has shown a deep sense of professional responsibility since it was formed, but wisely realises that all work and no play is apt to pall. Its Amusement Committee has, therefore, drawn up an attractive programme of cycle rides, &c., for the summer months, and last week had their first ride of the season, the meet being at Donnybrook.

Upwards of fifty having arrived, in little parties, a start was made for the Convalescent Home, Stillorgan, to which Miss Agnew had very thoughtfully

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