

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** * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



At the recent annual meeting of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, the Commissioner for special services reported that good progress has been made with the formation of detachments of the Auxiliary Royal Naval Sick Berth Reserve and of the Brigade Bearer Companies, the former for the first time having been taken on a cruise on board warships, which had added much to their knowledge of the duties which would be required of them in time of war. It was stated that the Lords of the Admiralty had furnished reports showing that, in the opinion of the naval medical officers, the men had proved themselves very efficient and were attentive to the instruction given them in the sick bay, while their conduct was most satisfactory. Of the Army Bearer Companies six, consisting of the regulation establishment of fifty-eight men of all grades, had now been formed and were in full working order, and a seventh would shortly be completed. One company, fifty-six strong, had already undergone training at the Lichfield Station Hospital, where it went into camp for six days at Whitsuntide, the conduct of the men being most exemplary.

Lady Hardinge, the wife of the British Ambassador to Russia, has handed over to the Dowager Empress £2,000 on behalf of the British Red Cross Society, and M. Bompard, the French Ambassador, has presented the sum of 100,000 fr. (£4,000) as a gift to the Russian Red Cross Society from the houses concerned in the issue of the last Russian loan floated in Paris. The same sum will shortly be handed to the reigning Empress Alexandra Feodorovna from the same houses for the organisations under Her Majesty's patronage for the relief of distress caused by the war.

At the distribution of prizes to students at St. Thomas's Hospital, the Treasurer, Mr. Wainwright, said the new Nurses' Home, which would accommodate 185 nurses, was rapidly approaching completion. When the hospital was first opened ninety-five nurses were considered to be the highest number they could ever require; but to-day, after thirty-three years' work, the staff of nurses numbered 176, and forty or fifty more were urgently required.

We regret that owing to the amount of space devoted this week to the account of the meeting of the International Council of Nurses the report of the General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, which took place last Saturday, is unavoidably held over till our next issue.

On Monday in last week Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Albany attended the annual sale of work of the Brabazon Employment Society at Kingston Workhouse. Her Royal Highness subsequently visited the Infirmary, where she was received by the Rev. F. O. Sutton, the Chairman of the Infirmary Committee, who presented to her the Chaplain, the Rev. P. A. Derry, the Medical Officers, Dr. Donald and Dr. Armstrong, and the Assistant Matron, Miss A. Smith. A number of nurses were also waiting at the entrance of the Infirmary to assist in giving the Duchess a warm welcome, and, after she had inscribed her name in the visitors' book, she was presented by Miss A. Smith, on behalf of the nurses, with a lovely basket of roses and orchids. Her Royal Highness was conducted round the wards by the Rev. F. O. Sutton and Dr. Donald. She spent upwards of two hours in the Infirmary, and passed from bed to bed, speaking kindly words of cheer and sympathy to every patient. She expressed herself as much pleased with all she saw. Before leaving the Infirmary Her Royal Highness took tea on the lawn, and was afterwards photographed in a group with the nurses who were present. The band of the Metropolitan Police Orphanage played in the grounds of the Infirmary throughout the afternoon. Her Royal Highness was heartily cheered by a number of the convalescent patients as she drove away.

The reasons for the resignations of Dr. W. F. Herringham and Mr. Bowlby, F.R.C.S., from the staff of the Wanstead Infant Orphan Asylum, given to the Committee of the institution, will commend themselves to most people. Referring to the arrangements in force they say: "We consider these arrangements do not make adequate provision for the health and treatment of the children . . . and so long as our names appear as members of your consulting staff we may be held responsible."

Explaining their position in a letter to the *Times*, they say:—

"The two main points to which we objected are:—

- "1. The refusal to make proper arrangements for the isolation of infectious cases.
- "2. The decision to place the nursing in the hands of untrained women, and to dismiss the staff of trained nurses."

They proceed to show that in 1903 nearly 500

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