

Nursing Echoes.

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Sir Thomas Barlow occupied the chair at a well-attended meeting held last week at 2, Adelphi Terrace, Strand, in support of the London Bible-women and Nurses' Mission, a society which was founded by Mrs. Ranyard in 1857. The Chairman explained the objects of the Society, and said that the nurses employed were all hospital trained, and worked under the direction of the doctors of the district, while they were in close touch with the out-patient departments of hospitals. The Hon. Superintendent, Miss Andrews, gave a brief review of the history of the Society, and said that from the first most valuable aid had been rendered by the British and Foreign Bible Society. The mission was practically dependent upon voluntary contributions, and more annual subscriptions were urgently needed. In three years the deficiencies had amounted to £1,000, and the amount would have been much larger, had it not been for the receipt of legacies. Sir William Broadbent, in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, expressed his interest in the mission.

Miss Ethel Edwards has gained the gold medal awarded to the nurse who heads the list in the final examination at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Miss Ethel Gunn has gained the prize of books given to the probationer who comes out first in the examination at the end of the first year.

At a meeting recently held at the Castle of Exeter, at which Lord Ebrington presided, Miss Amy Hughes urged the desirability of the formation of a County Nursing Association for Devonshire, as rendered expedient by the passage of the Midwives' Act, and explained that such an Association, having a Central Committee and a Central Fund, would select desirable women belonging to the county, and after training them would send them back to work in districts in the county. Miss Hughes said that in a county like Devonshire they ought easily to raise the sum of £500 per annum which would be required. On the proposition of the Duchess of Somerset, seconded by the Mayor of Exeter, it was decided that a fund be opened, and that annual subscriptions be invited towards the establishment of the Association.

We desire to give prominence to the fact that

the account of the inquest which we published last week on the death of a child who attended the out-patient department of St. Mary's Hospital for burns, referred to St. Mary's Hospital, Plaistow, not to St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

At a meeting of the Croydon Board of Guardians on Tuesday, the Infirmary Committee reported that they had had before them a petition from probationer nurses requesting the Guardians to sanction the signature of the Matron, Miss A. W. Pagen, being appended to their certificates of training. The Committee recommended that the request of the probationers should not be complied with.

The adoption of this report having been formally moved by Mr. W. H. J. Owen, the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. B. W. Addison pointed out that the probationers had got up the petition entirely on their own initiative, and the trouble they had taken to do so indicated their strong desire to have the advantage of the Matron's signature on their certificates. He moved that the matter be referred back to the Committee for further consideration. This was seconded by Miss Meynell.

Mr. G. J. Allen urged the Board to support the Committee. This was simply an agitation got up by one or two discontented persons. Everything was now tending to harmony, and it would be a pity to go back on a previous resolution. Mr. J. W. Gardiner did not think the nurses would ever let the matter drop; the best way to bring about harmony was to grant their request. Mr. T. P. Wood said so far from the agitation being spontaneous, it seemed to him the *Nursing Record* (i.e., the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING) and other nursing papers were really responsible. Miss Musselwhite supported the amendment. She thought the nurses were evidently dissatisfied with their certificates.

Other members having supported the amendment, Mr. Owen, in reply, declined to accept it. Some of the newer members of the Board seemed unaware of the difficulty the Board had had some years ago. He also thought the nurses concerned in the application could not be aware of the power it gave to the Matron, if she chose to use it, to do them an injustice. It was too much power to place in the hands of the Matron. It would be very unwise of the Board by their own act to place their head in a halter again. It was all a mere matter of sentiment fomented by someone outside, by different nursing papers, and people at the head of them.

On a vote being taken, by 15 votes to 10 the matter was referred back to the Infirmary Committee.

We agree with Mr. Gardiner that the best way to promote harmony is to grant the request of the probationers. It is the only satisfactory solution of the question, for unquestionably the probationers have right on their side.

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