

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* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



The annual conference of members of the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses and representatives of the Affiliated County Nursing Associations was held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, last week. The chair was taken by the President of the Institute, the Rev. the Master of St. Katherine's. Those present included the Duchess of Buccleuch, Viscountess Ebrington, the Countess of Lonsdale, the Countess of Northbrook, the Countess of St. Germans, the Hon. Lady Acland, the Hon. Lady Thorold, Lady Belper, Lady Lucy Drury-Lowe, Lady Henry Nevill, Lady Mary Howard, Lady Lucy Hicks-Beach, Lady Victoria Lambton, Lady Margaret Boscawen, the Hon. Mrs. Stanley, the Hon. Mrs. Tremayne, the Hon. Mrs. C. A. Egerton, Mrs. Portman Dutton, Mrs. Maurice Martineau, Mrs. Leeds, Mrs. Theodore Acland, Mrs. Byron, Miss Okeover, Miss Martineau, Miss Sanford, Miss R. Paget, Miss Vickers, Mr. Frank Ellis, the Rev. Dacre Craven, and Mr. Harold Boulton. The subjects discussed included school nursing, emergency nurses, the training of village nurses, and methods of raising funds for county nursing associations.

In the new Medical School and Nurses' Home at University College Hospital, which is the outcome of the generous gift made by Sir Donald Currie for the purpose, there will be large laboratories, theatres, &c. The Huntley Street end is devoted to the Nurses' Home, in which there will be accommodation for seventy-four nurses and eight doctors, and between the two there is a house for the medical students engaged in obstetric work.

As the question has been raised as to whether it is libellous to publish the names and circumstances of cases which have occurred in various courts of law in which women have been charged with criminal offences, we take this opportunity of saying that for the last twelve years we have taken the responsibility of publishing the details of such cases in this journal. Someone must bell the cat, and as no one else seems ready to do so, we are ready to run the gauntlet. Personally, should any libel action result from the publicity given in these columns to the actions of persons who have brought discredit upon a profession whose honour we hold

dear, and who have also imposed upon a defenceless public, we have no doubt that the entire sympathy of the community would be accorded to us.

Irish nursing matters again occupied the attention of the House of Commons at a recent date when Mr. Sloan asked the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland how many nuns were acting as paid nurses in the Ballyshannon Union, county Donegal; if he was aware that one of the nuns who was in charge left off duty on February 14th last and had not returned since; and, if so, would he say if she had sent in her resignation, and, if so, on what date; who was the nurse in charge at present; and on what date was she appointed? Mr. Long replied that three nuns were employed as paid nurses in the infirmary of the Ballyshannon workhouse. The Local Government Board had no information to show that one of these nuns had vacated her position, either temporarily or permanently. The fever hospital nurse obtained a week's leave of absence at the date mentioned, but she was not a nun.

A bottle dealer at the Lambeth County Court recently gave as an excuse for not discharging his financial obligations that things were so bad with the doctors now that his takings were nothing to what they used to be. He attributed this condition to the effective arrangements now enforced by sanitary authorities. It affected his trade, because when the public did not consume so much medicine they did not require so many bottles. He was ordered to pay 10s. a month "till the doctors' business gets better."

It is unquestionably true that the better sanitary conditions now prevailing have affected the demand for the services of both doctors and nurses. In the metropolis the Metropolitan Asylums Board is dealing effectively with infectious diseases, with the result that the death rate from these causes is diminishing, and that a considerable time has elapsed since there has been a serious epidemic in the metropolis. Maternity cases are much better looked after than formerly, with the result that prolonged convalescence consequent upon complications is much less common. While this indicates a condition of things satisfactory to the community at large, it undoubtedly has had an appreciable effect upon the money-earning capacity of both doctors and nurses.

The staffing of a hospital for infectious diseases with due regard to economy and efficiency is always a difficult problem. At a recent meeting of the Alcester and Feckenham Joint Hospital Board, Mr. G. E. Collett pointed out that the expenses of the institution during the quarter had amounted to £15 12s. per inmate, and this did not include any payment of rates. There were seven servants to

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