

NURSING ECHOES.

In consequence of the dearth of nurses the Local Government Board is being asked to allow girls of eighteen years of age to enter Poor Law institutions as probationers. The present age limit is twenty-one.

What do the matrons say to this suggestion?

At the distribution of prizes at the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, Sir Wilmot Herringham, who distributed the prizes, said, amongst other things, that the present equipment of nursing institutions which had grown up in little lodging-houses was a disgrace to London. Co-operation is the order of the day, and doubtless in the future Home Hospitals will be provided built for the purpose. In the meanwhile we know of admirable nursing done in small homes, where privacy and personal supervision are more easily obtainable than in the larger "hospital" Homes.

We have received a copy of the charming photograph taken at Bournville on June 12th, when the members of the National Council of Trained Nurses were so kindly entertained there by Mrs. George Cadbury. The visit to this model cocoa and chocolate factory was quite a revelation to the majority of nurses. They were simply delighted with all they saw, especially with the evidence of the far-sighted sympathy with the workers in the care of their health.

The King and Queen have had a strenuous visit to Scotland, and have been most warmly received. On Tuesday they visited Glasgow, and paid first a visit to the Royal Infirmary, where His Majesty declared the Diamond Jubilee Memorial Block open. The Superintendent, Mr. J. Maxtone Thom, and the Matron, Miss Melrose, had the honour of being presented, and the latter presented the Queen with a lovely bouquet. Later, during the tour of the hospital, Miss Kate Bell, who worked years ago with the late Lord Lister, was also presented.

After luncheon with the Lord Provost, Their Majesties paid a visit to the new Royal Hospital for Sick Children, which the King declared open, and the Queen named the Southern ward The King George V and Queen Mary Ward. Miss Simpson, the Matron, was amongst the notable people presented.

The King and Queen then drove to the Western Infirmary, the Chairman presenting to Their Majesties the Board of Management, the Medical Staff, Dr. D. J. Macintosh, M.V.O., Medical Superintendent, and Miss H. Gregory Smith, the Matron. All these splendid institutions were in gala attire, and presented a beautiful appearance. Bands of happy nurses were well to the fore, in neat and speckless uniforms, looking worthy of any amount of recognition by the Legislature, as indispensable workers for the welfare of the whole community. Let us hope the King will ere long put his sign manual to the Nurses' Registration Bill, and thus show his appreciation of trained and skilled nursing for the sick.

Sister Agnes Karll writes to say how pleased she is that Sister Henriette Arendt was given time to address the meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses at Birmingham, and to bring the evils of traffic in children for immoral purposes before it. Sister Arendt has since spoken on many platforms in England, and been received by members of Parliament interested in her work.

The *Times* questions Sister Arendt's statements so far as this country is concerned, as to the existence of an organised traffic of a particularly shameful kind in children, but admits the abuses of baby farming, which it states is a serious evil. We are of opinion that the conspiracy of silence concerning the violation and degradation of little children, is much more disastrous than the *Times* either knows or admits; and we are inclined to agree with a school nurse who recently remarked that "You may hang the red lamp outside every tenement house; very few little girls escape contamination who reside therein."

From the *Times* we note that in addressing the Court in support of several charges of gross indecency in Victoria Park, Mr. Greenwood, of the solicitor's department of the London County Council, said the Parks Committee was much troubled by the plague of indecency that seemed recently to have affected the frequenters of some of the parks and open spaces under the Council's control. During the present year it had been found necessary to prefer charges against men and women conjointly as well as against both men and boys for offences against children.

It is this "plague of indecency" which Sister Arendt is out to expose.

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