

NURSING ECHOES.

We learn that the foundation stone of the new Nurses' Home at St. Bartholomew's Hospital (Queen Mary's Home) is to be laid next month, and that the details of the ceremony are now being arranged. The day will be one of great rejoicing to the members of the Nursing School, and all concerned in its welfare, for the Training School has been conducted under the greatest difficulties for the last forty years, owing to the inadequacy of the Nurses' Home. None will rejoice more than former nurses of the School who built up its fine reputation under difficult conditions, and who have shown their deep interest in its welfare by raising, through the Nurses' League, some £3,000, which is to be devoted to the Library, and which will bear the name of Isla Stewart, the late Matron, who served the hospital for twenty-three years—a name revered all over the world wherever trained nursing is organised.

The statement made in a lay-edited nursing paper, that building operations have begun, is, we are officially informed, incorrect.

Princess Marie Louise will open a bazaar on February 7th, in the Hoare Memorial Hall, Church House, Westminster, in aid of the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses. The bazaar is being organised by Lady Henry Somerset.

We offered to take the names of any nurses who were prepared to pay an annual subscription of £1 towards professional organisation, now that legal status has been won, as a correspondent apparently failed to realise that the Nurses' organisations do not receive sufficient financial support from members to do their work effectively. We regret that so far very few have responded to the suggestion. We again remind those who think nothing is being done that legal status has been won for them at the cost of many thousands of pounds, to which those who criticise most have given little or nothing. In these days nothing can be done without money, even if there is still a little army of devoted voluntary workers spending their whole lives for the benefit of their colleagues.

Take the following little bill and scan it. The terrible ignorance of women of what organisation costs makes one long to enlighten them, and it is their duty to realise it.

To maintaining, by voluntary effort, a professional organ in the press in support of legal status for nurses (State Registration) for twenty-seven years, from 1893-1920, has cost

the Hon. Editor and the Hon. Assistant Editor the following sums:—

To Editor, value of salary, £500 per annum	£13,500
Editorial office	2,700
Money expended, as audited ...	10,000
	£26,200
To Assistant Editor, value of salary, £300 per annum for 24 years	7,200
Money expended	2,400
	£9,600

Making £35,800 without adding incidental expenses, or calculating the value of the voluntary, literary and clerical work contributed by half a dozen generous women.

We may set down that the value of £40,000 has been voluntarily given with the best will in the world to organising, and winning, the State Registration campaign through the press and the founding of the Nursing Profession on a legal basis.

Then there are a few other little accounts which might be rendered to the profession just by way of a reminder. The cost of the Royal Charter to the Royal British Nurses' Association, after strenuous opposition for two whole days before the Privy Council.

For the legal work of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which drafted the first Bill, and advocated it by political propaganda for fourteen years!

For the personal expenses of Scottish and Irish delegates to attend meetings of the Central Committee in London for ten years—whose Bill provided the basis of the Government's Registration Acts.

To say nothing of the Nurses' International Movement, which has been financed by the individual delegates.

Let us hope that the Registered Nurse of a future generation will know something of political economy, and repay by devotion to duty the privileges won for her by the voluntary work and contributions in hard cash of her predecessors.

For the future the financial burden of organisation must be borne by the many and not by the few, and the parasite spirit severely discouraged.

Miss Crowther, who has been Superintendent of the South Wales Nursing Association since its inception ten years ago, has retired on her marriage to Mr. Ernest J. Martin, which took place on the 4th inst. Many nurses who have been associated with her during her connection with the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute will wish her all happiness in her married life.

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