

## 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\* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 annual meeting of the North London Nursing Association, which has for the last seventeen years undertaken the free nursing of the sick poor of Islington, Holloway, and the neighbourhood, it was resolved in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee to raise a special fund by inviting subscriptions for fixed terms of years.

The following interesting anecdote of Miss Nightingale's first patient is told by Mrs. Tooley, in an article in the *Temple Magazine* for March:—

"It was the dog of an old shepherd that the 'queen of nurses' had for her first patient. She was riding one day over the hills with her friend the vicar, who frequently took her with him to visit his poor parishioners, knowing the child's intense interest in suffering people, when she encountered Roger, an old Scotch shepherd, attempting the almost hopeless task of collecting his sheep without a dog.

Some boys had been stoning the dog, and lamed it. Its owner believed that they had broken its leg, and was going to make away with it, when Florence Nightingale begged to be allowed to see what was the matter with it. Finding that the leg was not broken, but only bruised, she applied hot fomentations and bandages under the direction of the vicar, tearing up the shepherd's smock in order to obtain material for her bandages. She had the satisfaction of saving the dog, and of restoring it to its master. It is therefore not surprising that after this it became an established custom when anyone had a cut or a bruise or a sick animal, to send for 'Miss Florence,' and she might indeed have been termed the Good Angel of Derwent Vale."

At the last meeting of the St. John's House Debating Society the subject was Private Nursing. Some very interesting papers were read, and a discussion followed in which most of the members present took part. There was a good attendance—fourteen members, one honorary member, and one member being present. This Debating Society has been the means of drawing out much talent, hitherto unsuspected, on the part of the staff of St. John's House, and of collecting much useful information. It is to be hoped that the time will come when

every hospital of any standing has a debating society of its own.

At the annual meeting of the Governors of the Metropolitan Hospital, the chairman, Mr. C. J. Thomas, stated that the new nursing arrangements by which the Hospital had its own permanent staff had worked very satisfactorily. They had an excellent matron in Miss Kingsford, and they hoped for the best results from the appointment.

The Dorset Health Association has now been in existence for five years, and its work is now extending all over the county. Several new nursing clubs have adopted practically the same rules, and the object of all is stated to be "The welfare of the sick and suffering; and that in unity lies strength." The work of the County Home for Nurses embraces district and infirmary, private and emergency nursing in the county, as well as the training and testing of probationers and county scholars. Several county scholarships have been awarded to probationers.

The resignation is announced of Miss Simpson, the lady superintendent of the Princess Christian's Nurses' Home at Windsor. This lady has been associated with the Home for seven years, and for five and a half years has held the post of lady superintendent. Much regret is expressed at her resignation, as her services have been much appreciated. It is reported that Miss Simpson is about to join a Sisterhood.

We referred last week in our Editorial to the death of a nurse at Dover from enteric fever, under especially sad circumstances. The following letter has been addressed to the Editor of the *Dover and City Chronicle* by the foreman of the jury at the Coroner's inquest:—

SIR,—Several of the jurymen in this case having been approached by townspeople who seem to wish that a verdict of manslaughter should have been returned, I hasten, on the jurymen's behalf, to point out that we would have brought in this verdict had the Coroner decided on the evidence we could have done so, consequently we had no alternative.

I fear that unless proceedings are taken by the sanitary authorities the impression will obtain that the poor are harassed while the rich escape.

Yours faithfully,

REGINALD RADCLIFFE,  
Foreman.

We think the wisest course would be for the sanitary authorities to close Mrs. Beresford Baker's Home of Rest as a source of public danger.

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