

Nursing Echoes.

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ON Thursday, the 3rd inst., her Royal Highness Princess Christian, accompanied by the Princess Victoria, paid a visit to Birkenhead and attended a meeting at the Town Hall, with the object of furthering the work done by the Birkenhead District Nursing Society. The Royal party were received at Birkenhead by the Mayor (Mr. E. G. Mason), the Duke and

Duchess of Westminster, Lady Margaret Ismay, and General Swaine. Upon their arrival at the Town Hall the Mayor, in a few brief words, expressed on behalf of the inhabitants a very hearty welcome to their Royal guests, and the belief that the presence of the Princess that day would go far towards attaining the desire of the Birkenhead District Nursing Society by enabling it to widen the scope of its labours.

THE Rev. A. L. V. Peile (Master of St. Katherine's and President of the Jubilee Institute), then gave an address on the work of the District Nursing Society, and its connection with the Jubilee Institute. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Peile said: "He did not believe that any real effective good could be done unless it were done by those who understood and knew their work, and like every other work people must be educated and trained to it. Their great object was to take care, as far as they could—and so far as the Jubilee Institute was concerned, they did take care—that those who went to nurse the sick in their homes should be trained nurses. That meant that they should have, at least, one year's hospital training, and in addition to that six months' district training."

We do not think that any other medical or lay paper will have the courage to protest against this standard of trained nursing as laid down by Mr. Peile, but in the name of the nursing profession we are compelled to do so. We fully recognize the admirable work done by the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, but it is due largely, we believe, to the fact that the nurses appointed are selected from those who have had at least three years' training, not from those who have only had the one year's hospital training, and six months district work which is at present all that is required by the Regulations of the Jubilee Institute. It is therefore, we think, misleading to allow the public to suppose that this very insufficient training is all that is received by

the large majority of Jubilee Nurses, and that their excellent work is performed after they have acquired the very limited amount of knowledge which it is possible to attain in this time.

THE standard of the majority of well-organised training schools is now that of three years, and even if, as is the case at the London Hospital, the probationer is certified at the end of two years, she is still required to serve her training school for a third year.

FOLLOWING upon Mr. Peile, Miss Heaton, the hon. secretary, read a statement as to the development of the society, and of the work done since its affiliation with the Queen Victoria Nursing Institution, and Miss Wilmer, hon. treasurer, submitted a statement of accounts.

LADY MARGARET ISMAY, as a member of the Executive Committee, then laid before the meeting two suggestions for helping the Society. One was that the well-to-do people in Birkenhead should collect money to endow a free cot in the Children's Convalescent Home at West Kirby, for which the sum of £600 would be required, and which she suggested should be called the "Princess Christian Cot," as a memorial of the visit of Princess Christian to Birkenhead. The other was that on two days in the year the Society should have a "Pound Day," when everybody would be asked to send a pound of some article that might be kept for the use of destitute patients, or if they preferred they might send money to the milk fund.

WE are glad to notice that the ladies of Birkenhead took a prominent part in the proceedings at this meeting. As the establishment of the Jubilee Institute was, from first to last, a woman's movement, this is only suitable.

THE proceedings closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Princess Christian, proposed by the Mayor, and a vote of thanks to the Mayor and Town Council of Birkenhead for their hospitality and hearty co-operation.

THE Cairo correspondent of the *Times* writes: "The good work done by the British National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War in connection with the recent expedition to Khartoum, deserves record and also recognition by all who are concerned in the welfare of our soldiers, and who take an interest in Red Cross work. The society chartered the sternwheeler steamer *Mayflower* to bring down the sick and wounded from Assouan, thereby sparing them about thirty hours of a painful jolting railway journey amid heat and dust, and probably saving valuable lives. The military authorities provided the medical staff of two officers and eight non-commissioned officers and men of the R.A.M.C., with medical and surgical equipment, and the ordinary soldiers' rations, whilst the society placed the steamer at their disposal

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