

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 eightieth birthday of Miss Florence Nightingale is at hand, and we learn that an address, expressing affection and congratulation from hundreds of nurses, is in preparation. It is well that women should recognise their heroines, and not bestow all their appreciation upon heroes, as has been their custom in the past.

THE annual joint meeting of the committee and subscribers of the Queen's Commemoration Fund on behalf of the Queen's Jubilee Institute for Nurses was held recently at 44, Bryanston Square, by permission of the Hon. Sydney Holland, who presided. The report of the Queen's Jubilee Nurses Council to the Queen, Her Majesty's reply, and the report embodying the operations of the Commemoration Committee during last year, together with the audited accounts, were presented and approved. The Duke of Portland was elected chairman in the place of the late Duke of Westminster, and the Duchess of Portland and the Duke and Duchess of Bedford were added to the committee.

A TRANSLATION of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's Paper, "The Evolution of the Trained Nurse," from the American *Outlook*, appears in this month's *Maanblad voor Ziekenverpleging*, the Dutch nursing magazine.

WE observe that the misleading statement that Mrs. Neill was Local Secretary of the New Zealand Branch of the R.B.N.A., has, as we suggested, been omitted from the list of officers, printed in the official organ. No New Zealand Branch has ever existed.

AT the Annual Meeting of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses it was reported that the invested funds exceeded £520,000, and that 811 pension policies, as compared with 634 in the preceding twelve months, had been issued. Annuitants numbered 223, holding amongst them 311 policies. In the sickness branch £1,297 had been distributed as sickness allowance, a somewhat lower sum than in 1898.

WE hope some day that trained nurses will substitute the grating and erroneous title of "Pension" from their "Insurance" Society. When the element of toadying and twaddle is eliminated, and the Society maintained on strictly business and self-respecting lines, it will deserve the support of many nurses who now strongly object to being publicly paraded as "pensioners," and who, therefore, decline to be associated with the Society.

THE whole tendency of the pushful philanthropist of the day is towards a most objectionable form of patronage in relation to nursing affairs. How one longs to be left alone, as other self-supporting women workers are. We do not find the poor girl typist, the crisp little clerk, or the medical student, gushed over; why should trained nurses, simply because the emotional public invests them with a halo of romance, alone remain objects of charity? It is high time they wrenched themselves free from the tenacious clutches of the professional philanthropists.

ON the retirement of Mrs. Inglis from the post of Matron to the Alt-yr-yn Hospital, Newport, Monmouthshire, on the occasion of her marriage to Dr. R. J. Paton, it was decided by the Corporation to record in their minutes their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by her since the opening of the Hospital in 1896. Mrs. Inglis was also the recipient of many handsome gifts from the Sanitary Committee, and the nursing and domestic staffs.

A CONFERENCE of medical men, representing the various hospitals in Limerick, and some members of the Board of Guardians, was held recently at the Workhouse for the purpose of arranging a scheme by which probationary nurses could secure clinical training at any of those institutions, and in this way qualify for the certificate of proficiency required by the Local Government Board. It is understood that a draft scheme has been prepared, which will provide that probationers attending any one of the hospitals would be entitled to receive instructions at the others also on payment of a small fee, which would be returned in salary after the first year. We presume some of the Matrons of the Limerick hospitals were present at this meeting dealing with their own branch of work, although no nurses' names are reported.

THE following interesting account of the leper patient has appeared in *Life and Work in British Central Africa*:—

"HE feels that he must not be obstrusive. There is a crowd of people, mostly women and children, squatting on the ground round the

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