

**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*\*\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



WE have received a generous gift of £10 from Mr. Stephen Holland, for the Nurses' Home of Rest, at Brighton, which is specially welcome just now, when all the money of the charitable is being absorbed for the sufferers in the South African war.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will be the guest of the Society of American Women in London at their April luncheon at Prince's, on Monday, when she will speak on the Progress of Nursing in the United States and the Coming Congress of Nurses at Buffalo.

The staff and nurses of the Royal Derby Nursing Association have, through Miss Atthill, the Lady Superintendent, contributed £12 12s. to the Princess of Wales' appeal for the Soldiers and Sailors Families Fund.

At the annual meeting of the Leicester Institution of Trained Nurses a decidedly satisfactory report was presented. Some 278 cases were nursed by the private nurses, as against 112 in 1899, and it was stated that the work of the nurses had given the highest satisfaction and comfort to the patients.

In moving the adoption of the report Mr. S. F. Stone made some very pertinent remarks. He said the institution held a high position amongst nursing institutions. Since it was established, some thirty-four years ago, the art of nursing had made immense strides. It used to be a purely domestic employment, but it had become a highly skilled profession, almost as important as that of the medical man. Unfortunately there was no definite qualification standard for nurses; anyone could go out and say she was a trained nurse. She might not even have entered a hospital. That institution, however, had a regulation which defined one standard, and that was that the nurses on the staff should all have a certificate for a three years' hospital training, and bear good characters. The institution merited the confidence of the medical profession both in the town and country.

The accounts of the District Branch again showed a deficit, which had to be met out of the reserve fund. The financial statement showed receipts, including a legacy and £154 10s. 11d., transferred from the reserve fund, amounting to £1,286 5s. 9d., and an expenditure which left the institute at the close of the twelve months with a balance in hand of £63 9s. 5d.

Now we gather from this that the nursing of the sick poor in their own homes is partly defrayed by the earnings of the Private Nursing Branch, and that without this supplementary aid upon the part of the nurses, free nursing in the districts would have to be curtailed, as the citizens of Leicester do not provide sufficient funds for the purpose. Surely this is unfair upon a class of women workers, who find after years of hard work, great difficulty in saving enough to maintain independence in old age.

We have constantly expressed the opinion that Private Nursing Institutions should be based on commercial principles, that the members should co-operate for their common benefit, and that District Nursing Societies, providing free care of the sick poor in their own homes, should be entirely distinct organizations; Private Nursing must be conducted as a business, District Nursing as a charity, and it is eminently unjust that the earnings of trained nurses, a poor and hard working class, should be "appropriated" to pay for charity over which they have absolutely no power of control. We hope the committee of the Leicester Institution for Trained Nurses may appreciate the justice of our remarks.

A lecture on "Animals in the Zoo and out of it" was given recently by Dr. E. MacDowel Cosgrave before the members of the Dublin Nurses' Club at their rooms, 3, St. Stephen's Green. A number of fine photographs of the animals in the Dublin Zoological Gardens shown by lime-light formed the basis of the lecture, Dr. Cosgrave describing the habits, characteristics, and physical qualities of the subjects of the pictures, accompanying his remarks with a racy description of the circumstances under which the photographs were taken. The lecture proved most instructive, and at its close the thanks of the club were conveyed to Dr. Cosgrave by Miss Huxley, Matron of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, and President of the club.

The following satisfactory letter has been received by Mrs. Kildare Treacy, Lady Super-

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