

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will act as the delegate of the Registered Nurses' Society to the British Congress on Tuberculosis, to be held at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, in July.

The annual meeting of the Asylums Workers Association, was held on Friday, in last week, at the Medical Societies Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square. The report was presented by the indefatigable Hon. Secretary, Dr. Shuttleworth, and the statement of accounts showed a balance on the right side. It was proposed that some person should be deputed in each asylum to represent the Association, and to keep the members in touch with its work.

The date of the second annual general meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses is fixed for Saturday, June 29th, at 3 p.m. Later in the afternoon the meeting will resolve itself into a social gathering. These informal gatherings, after the business of the day is over, are most pleasurable opportunities for renewing acquaintance with former colleagues, and meeting the friends of long ago, and are greatly enjoyed by the members.

We welcome the appearance of the half yearly issue of *League News*, the official publication of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses. It is of great interest to the members, and by its means they are kept informed of each other's movements in a way which was formerly impossible. We are glad to notice the publication in the *News* of the memorandum on Army Nursing Reform, presented by the Matrons' Council to the War Office. Many members of the League worked in South Africa during the war, and we feel sure that they will endorse its recommendations. We hope that the committee appointed to consider army medical re-organization will avail themselves of the valuable evidence which these sisters can give on nursing matters.

Miss Alice Pretty, better known to Bart's nurses as Sister Kenton, has resigned her appointment.

Trained at the London Hospital from 1879-1881, she has held the position of Sister at St. Bartholomew's for the last twenty years, her work, which was performed faithfully and well, being often done under the stress of ill health. On her resignation she was presented by the Matron, Assistant Matron, and Sisters with a clock and a purse of money. Many Bart's nurses will combine in wishing Miss Pretty a happy and restful future after her busy and active life. Miss Bryan, who for some years has been Sister of Radcliffe Ward, is the new Sister Kenton.

"Fire, fire, fire! What a sight!" Thus the *St. Mary's Hospital Gazette* describes a recent episode. "Strong nurses carry patients and beds out of the wards, as though they were feathers. Pale, but self-contained, the Sisters give quick and stern commands. Porters tear up the stairs, knocking over incautious visitors, and seize the hose. The carpenter works the hand pump; the students take off their white coats; the house-surgeon demands the stomach pump; the secretary and steward prepare for the worst. The Matron graces the scene, the Editor produces a note-book, the medical superintendent refuses to leave the 'ship.' A volume of smoke obscures the dreadful turmoil, and the answer is 'A hospital chimney on the blaze.'

"Bless us, what a mess it is! There we all are, house-surgeon, students, and porters, holding our clothes and walking about just as if we were fashionable modern young ladies carrying our petticoats in the most up-to-date, orthodox, extraordinary manner."

Well, at least the episode proved that the one inspiration of the whole staff was DUTY. Their one thought, the safety of the patients.

In an interesting article in a recent number of the *Fortnightly Review*, by M. F. Johnston, on "The Life of a Woman Convict," at Aylesbury Prison, which is the only one for female convicts in England and Wales, an account is given of the infirmary. "The infirmary is the brightest spot within the prison precincts. It is, of course, not managed on quite the same lines as the rest of the establishment, but is, so to speak, debatable ground, where the strict rules of discipline must of necessity come into conflict with the natural promptings of kindly sympathy; but a compromise appears to have been made which settles the claims of all parties to mutual satisfaction. . . . There are both wards and cells in the infirmary, and the sick are in charge of a trained nurse from one of the great metropolitan

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