

Nursing Echoes.

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WE learn with great pleasure that a meeting is to be held at St. John's House, Norfolk Street, Strand, on Saturday, June 15th, to inaugurate a League of past and present nurses of the House. The business before the meeting is to elect the officers of the League, and to adopt a constitution. St. John's House was one of the pioneer institutions to institute a satisfactory system of nurse training, being founded in 1848. Mrs. Elizabeth Fry took an active part in the movement, which was so immediately successful that, when Miss Nightingale went out to the Crimea she applied to St. John's House for help, and took out with her several trained nurses, while the demand so much exceeded the supply that a hurried training in the first principles of nursing was given to other ladies who were then dispatched to the seat of war.

Happily St. John's House has not fallen into the snare, which is the undoing of many pioneer societies, that of resting on past laurels, and preening itself on the standard already attained. It has, on the contrary, kept well abreast with the times, and for the last ten years has adopted the three years' standard of training. Many of its staff have also had experience in fever nursing, and hold certificates in midwifery and massage. Furthermore, the professional as well as the commercial side of the work has always been kept well in view, and it is therefore not a matter for surprise that the nurses trained by the House should be some of the first to recognize the trend of the present movement to organize in training school leagues.

The new operating theatres which are to be opened at St. Thomas's Hospital next week are constructed in a most up-to-date fashion, and are charming in appearance. The floors are tessellated, the walls for a considerable distance up are lined with glass, and where the glass meets the white paint which covers the upper portion, a design runs round them stencilled in cerulean blue. A marble gallery is provided for the students. The

theatres are lighted from above by a big skylight. There are no open windows, but a system of ventilation is arranged by means of which fresh air is introduced. There is a liberal supply of sinks, and above these run rows of glass shelves for lotions.

The new children's ward will be ideal when complete. The walls are entirely lined with tiles, and these are arranged to form pictures of the favourite nursery rhymes. The scheme is charming, and a more delightful ward for sick children could not be well imagined. The great advantage of tiled walls is that they are washable, and also that they are completely decorated without the necessity for hanging up any dust-collecting pictures. An inscription over the door tells that it is a memorial to Lilian Holland Holland.

The resignation, through ill-health, of Miss Fawcett, of the office of Matron of the Carlisle Infirmary, is sincerely regretted by all who came in contact with her. At a recent meeting referring to the resignation, Colonel Irwin said Miss Fawcett came to the infirmary at a period of exceptional difficulty, and by her discipline, orderly methods, and untiring zeal—in fact, she very seldom left the building—she brought the infirmary up to a state in which it had not been since he had had the pleasure of being on this committee. He hoped the committee would endorse his opinion of her valuable qualities and regret that owing to ill-health she had been compelled to retire from the profession. Mr. Main bore testimony to the excellent qualities of the late Matron. The Rev. J. Howie Boyd said he had opportunities of knowing the work which Miss Fawcett did in connection with the infirmary, and a more faithful Matron it would be impossible to find. In fact he just feared that she was a victim of over-work, and a very high sense of duty. The Chairman endorsed what had been said in regard to the Matron. He thought that in many respects they could not speak too highly of the work she had done, and they could only hope that with God's blessing she might be restored to health. He suggested that a resolution expressive of their regret at the resignation of Miss Fawcett, and of good wishes for her future, might be proposed. Dr. Barnes, as one of the senior officials of the infirmary, and one connected with it as long as anyone present, said he would like to bear testimony to the valuable work the Matron had done. He was sure she would appreciate any expression of their good wishes for her recovery, and he quite endorsed what had been said by the Treasurer and other speakers in regard to the value of the services which she rendered.

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