

Annotations.

THE CORONATION AND THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

Several of the London hospitals hope to benefit considerably financially from the Coronation Year. Westminster Hospital possesses the best view of the Coronation procession in the metropolis, as it faces the entrance to the Abbey. The authorities have been offered the sum of £3,000 for the right to erect a stand outside, but they have decided to retain this right themselves, and to charge ten guineas each for tickets. They will devote the money thus obtained to the extinction of the debt on the present building, and to the extension of the hospital. St. George's Hospital also will come in for a share of the golden harvest.

On June 27th, the date of the Royal Progress the hospitals on the line of the route are Charing Cross, the Royal Eye Hospital at St. George's Circus, Southwark, and St. Thomas's Hospital, which has a fine point of vantage. We hope that those who are intending to secure seats from which to see either the Coronation procession, or the subsequent Royal Progress, will remember the hospital stands, and so not only benefit themselves, but help to place a substantial sum at the disposal of these institutions.

HEAVEN-BORN NURSES.

It would appear that in the opinion of Mr. Joslin, one of the speakers at the Annual Meeting of the Essex Cottage Nursing Association, that what this society needs is "heaven-born nurses." Mr. Joslin said he believed nurses were born not made; but "the difficulty was to find heaven-born nurses," and he urged upon the Executive the great importance of obtaining the right type of woman. Where these celestial beings were to be obtained he did not mention, but, considering the pay upon which the nurses of this Association are required to live, we endorse the necessity of his appeal to Heaven, for human beings who have earthly appetites and earthly necessities can scarcely subsist on the salary paid to them—namely, twelve and sixpence a week and lodgings. The sum expended on necessary clothing and shoe leather must make a considerable inroad into this magnificent remuneration. Would the ladies of title whose names appear as Vice-Presidents of this Association, and who are content that women who

are entrusted with the responsible duty of nursing the sick should be paid this pittance, offer such a miserable salary to their own maids? Certainly not, because no well-trained maid would accept it. It is not, therefore, surprising that the Essex Cottage Nursing Association has a difficulty in finding nurses of the right type. The light-hearted way in which Society ladies supply as nurses to the poor women whose knowledge does not command a salary of more than twelve and sixpence a week is, in our opinion, quite indefensible. The aim and duty of those who realise the gravity of the work with which a nurse is entrusted is to maintain the same standard of efficiency for the nurses of all sick persons, whether rich or poor.

THE BALANCE OF JUSTICE.

Should nurses receive pay when off duty from sickness or accident not contracted in the discharge of their duty? To some extent each case must be decided on its merits, and may safely be left in the hands of the Committee concerned, for no Committee is likely to err on the side of harshness to a nurse in a matter of this kind. But justice is justice, and it is not easy to see why a nurse who has met with a bicycling or any other accident, while in pursuit of her own pleasure, should take it for granted that not only is the institution with which she is connected to be put to the inconvenience of finding a substitute to do her work, but that it should also pay her salary in full while she is convalescing, and probably occupying a bed and being maintained at the expense of the hospital besides. Nurses are, as a rule, treated so liberally in matters of this kind, that they are becoming just a little exacting. They take all the care and medical and nursing skill lavished upon them as a matter of course, and consider themselves hardly done by if they are not paid for receiving them. But committees, entrusted with the administration of public funds, are bound to be faithful in the discharge of this duty, and remembering that these funds are subscribed primarily for the relief of the sick poor, while being generous to the nursing staff they must also be just to the subscribers. A letter which will be found in another column discusses the question from the point of view of hospital authorities. It will be seen that there is much to be said in this connection.

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