

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* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 note with pleasure the growing desire on the part of Bart's Nurses for professional comradeship and intercourse. This is no doubt one of the first fruits of the formation of the League which is bound to be a fruitful influence for good in this respect. Early in January a "Blue Belt" Society was formed, which, as its name suggests, consists of the certificated nurses of the Hospital who meet once a fortnight and discuss subjects of general and professional interest. At the unanimous wish of the members, Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of the Hospital, consented to become the President of the Society, and Nurse Helliwell was elected Chairman, and Nurse G. Wood, Hon. Secretary. The first paper of the Session was read by the Matron on American Hospitals, and the International Nursing Congress. Sister Hope gave an address on the "Niceties of Nursing and the Importance of Small Details." Nurse Hare contributed a paper on "Novels, Old and New," and Miss Pixell one on "Surgical Nursing." The Session closed on April 28th with a social gathering.

The probationary staff-nurses have also formed a "White Belt" Society on much the same lines as the "Blue Belt" Society, and several papers have been read by the members. The practice thus obtained in giving expression to ideas is excellent, and we may expect that some vocations for public speaking which would otherwise have remained latent may be developed in this way.

It is satisfactory evidence of the feeling of well trained nurses as to the need for State Registration that so many of the certificated nurses of St. Bartholomew's Hospital are joining the new Society formed to obtain this measure of justice. During the past week over twenty applications for membership have been received from Bart's nurses. The question must be studied and appreciated by the rank and file of the nursing profession, as well as by those holding important positions in the nursing world, if progress is to be made, and if our profession is to be raised from the anomalous and unsatisfactory position which it now occupies and placed on a proper basis. As

Mrs. Groves says, on the question in the *Bart's League News*, "it is not a matter for employers of nursing labour—Matrons of hospitals, superintendents of private nursing institutions, or medical men—to decide for us; it is for the existing body of trained nurses, who have sufficient enterprise and knowledge of their position, to show unitedly their desire to raise their work into a profession."

Sister Casualty relates, in an interesting interview, her reminiscences of her experiences at St. Bartholomew's Hospital as a probationer, just five-and-twenty years ago, in the current issue of the same journal, and tells a story of "old Sister Faith," whose many apt and pungent remarks are still fresh in the memory of the older nurses of the hospital—it throws a side-light upon the comissariat of that day, when the motto was for the most part "plain living and high thinking." Serving a very tough pie one day at dinner, Sister Faith exclaimed, "Fellow-Sisters, this pie is as 'ard as the 'eart of Pharaoh." It is not stated how many applied to be served on the strength of this remark.

Speaking of surgical nursing in the old days, Sister Casualty said, "all wounds, of course, suppurated, and required dressing or poulticing twice or three times a day. I well remember Mr. Willett saying, when lecturing to us on wounds, 'There are three modes of healing: the first, most to be desired, but never seen, by first intention; the second, by granulation; and the third, which is always seen, by suppuration.'"

The Governors of St. Thomas' Hospital, who find no difficulty in disposing of the seats on their stand, from which to view the Royal Progress on the day following the Coronation at £5 5s. each, have generously set aside the central block of seats for the accommodation of the Nursing Staff; who will thus have an opportunity of seeing this historic event.

At a special meeting of the Governors of the British Lying-in Hospital, Endell Street, held lately at the Hospital, a resolution was passed authorising the Board of Management to expend a sum of £7,000 in erecting a Nurses' Home on the freehold site of 28, Betterton Street, which adjoins and belongs to the Hospital. The Home, which will accommodate twenty nurses, will, it is hoped, be completed and ready for occupation early next year. One effect of the new Home will be to enable the Board to convert the present Nurses' Dining-room, and a room beyond, used as a nurses' bedroom, to the use for which it is clear they were originally intended, namely, two wards for patients, capable of holding five beds

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