

Nursing Echoes.

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The late Mr. Edward Adolphus Newman's executors have made a grant of £500 to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses from the fund bequeathed by him for charitable purposes.

Miss Gordon, Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital, has tendered her resignation to the Court of Governors, after twenty-eight years of nursing work. The Governors, in accepting the resignation, passed resolutions of regret and of thanks to Miss Gordon for her past services.

Miss Amy Hughes, of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, speaking recently on behalf of the Maternity Charity and District Nurses' Home in Howard's Road, Plaistow, at its annual meeting, spoke in favourable terms of the work done by the Home in training nurses for country districts. The Countess of Selborne, who presided, and the Bishop of Colchester appealed for increased support for the Home, for which it was stated there was no endowment and very little reliable income.

Recently an excellent matinee, and also an evening promenade concert, arranged by the Mayoress of Southampton took place at the Royal Pier Pavilion, in aid of the Fund for the Southampton Hospital Nurses' Home which is being raised in commemoration of the Coronation. We hope that the proceeds of these entertainments will add substantially to the amount of the Fund.

The ninth annual Conference of the Affiliated Benefit Nursing Associations for the supply of cottage nurses on the Holt-Ockley system was recently held, by permission of Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Gretton, at 66, Ennismore Gardens, S.W. Lord Ancaster presided. Miss Broadwood, the hon. secretary, stated that, during the year 1902, 70 nurses were sent into training and placed on the cottage nurses' register. Of these, 35 were trained at Bury House, and others in different districts, or in maternity and cottage hospitals, for periods varying from four weeks to twelve months. Some people, both within and without the movement, advocated a higher degree of training for the nurses, but the training given was really sufficient, as was shown by the fact that it enables them at once to obtain positions as district nurses or as assistant

nurses in small hospitals and in workhouse infirmaries.

There are several points of interest brought out in this statement. First, the philanthropic ladies and gentlemen concerned lightly assume the responsibility of defining what constitutes an efficient training without consulting the heads of the nursing profession. Next they take upon themselves the responsibility of deciding that the standard of education held to be necessary in the case of the rich is unnecessary for the poor; and, thirdly, on the authority of the Hon. Secretary we know that this Society actually sends to the poor as trained nurses women with only four weeks' training, and furthermore holds that this so-called training is sufficient because those women who receive it can "at once obtain positions as district nurses." Truly it is time that we had a minimum standard of nursing education enforced by authority when the sick poor are at the mercy of these ignorant women.

All sick people dislike depressing nurses, and we are not surprised to read in an American contemporary that the essential requisite in a nurse is hope—we are saved by hope. Nothing is more infectious than a cheerful spirit, and a nurse should bring a warm and sunny presence into the sick-room; a real good nurse is hearty, decisive, tender and hopeful.

As the gloom of ignorance surrounding the nature of insanity has been gradually dissipated by the light of accumulating knowledge, more rational methods of treatment have found their way into practice. Insanity is no longer looked upon as a supernatural visitation, from which there is no escape and for which there is no preventive or remedy, but rather as a morbid state comparable to other disordered conditions of the body, having similar underlying causes and therefore amenable to analogous therapeutic measures. It is the modern scientific view that is responsible for the improvements in the treatment of the insane witnessed during the latter half of the century just ended.

No longer is it deemed necessary to incarcerate such a patient and condemn him to a life of hopeless isolation and inactivity. Far more is to be gained, as a constantly increasing experience teaches, by placing him amid congenial surroundings, with only such restraint as to protect him from harm; by ministering to his wants in the same way as those of one ill from any other disease are attended to; and so soon as he is convalescent, by encouraging him to take such exercise and engage in such pursuits as are likely to contribute most to his well-being and increase his usefulness.

In the same spirit the designation "Hospital for the Insane" has gradually replaced that of "Asylum," and a step further in progress in this direction has been taken by the board of trustees of the Butler

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)