

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\* \* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Up to date over £56,000 has been received at the headquarters of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses towards the women's memorial to her late Majesty; and, as the Scottish fund is still open, and several of the English counties have not yet completed their efforts, the ultimate total is likely to exceed the £70,000 with which the Institute was founded and endowed in 1887,

that sum being the amount given by the women of the United Kingdom to our late Sovereign in commemoration of her first Jubilee.

We wish that £100,000 could be raised—it would be none too much—for the support of visiting nursing amongst our deserving poor—and the majority of our poor are very deserving, and bear their sufferings with splendid fortitude and resignation, as every nurse who comes in contact with them in their own homes can bear witness.

Her Majesty Queen Alexandra has been graciously pleased to appoint 70 additional "Queen's Nurses" in England, 5 in Wales, 22 in Scotland, and 9 in Ireland to date July 1st, 1902. We hope the day will come when in every parish in the United Kingdom the services of a Queen's nurse will be available for the sick poor.

A Scotch correspondent writes:—"On Saturday, June 21st, the annual gathering of the Scottish Queen's Nurses was held in the Training Home in Edinburgh in commemoration of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The nurses from the country hurried in as early as work and trains would allow, cold dinner was served between one and two, and later they assembled in the large lecture and committee room, and tea was handed round. It was nice to see the bright happy faces and hear the hearty greetings between old friends; no entertainment was needful and meeting was enough, and, though some of the nurses had been working for many years in their districts, not one had lost touch with the Home, proving the strong personal influence of those in charge of their training and inspection.

"Before 1897 there were only two or three district nurses in Edinburgh—and few, if any, in the country

districts. Now in most of the remote Highland villages and in the far distant Highlands the Queen's Nurses are working, bringing skilled help and comfort to the poorest."

What a magnificent League of nurses will arise when all the Queen's Nurses join hands and cooperate for mutual help, and thus acquire power to express collectively their views on matters of interest and importance to the nursing profession in relation to the public—for we must never forget that what is good for the nurse is good for the patient.

What is the position of nurses in English hospitals with regard to municipal elections? We learn that in Scotland, as for instance at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, each nurse ranks as a lodger and is entitled to a vote. We hope that these nurses appreciate their privileges and responsibilities and will exercise the franchise to the full.

We hear very genuine regrets expressed on all sides, and especially by Nightingale nurses, at the resignation of Miss Gordon, Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital. We ourselves share this regret, for any letters we have addressed to Miss Gordon on behalf of this journal, or any personal applications for information, have invariably received the most courteous attention. A business-like attention to letters, and personal courtesy to callers on the part of hospital officials, does much to make the wheels of life move smoothly, and the Matron of St. Thomas's has certainly set an example which it would be well for all to follow in this respect.

We are glad to learn that St. Thomas's Hospital will benefit, probably to the extent of over a quarter of a million, by the will of the late Mr. Gassiot, of Upper Tooting.

A nurse friend writes:—"Our Brighton Home of Rest looks quite sweet with its new coat of paint and paper, and one never leaves 12, Sussex Square without realising what a perfect manager is dear Mrs. McIntyre. She simply lives for duty, and is an example in every act of life to those fortunate enough to come under her influence. Her care of the Home, its exquisite cleanliness and order, the quality of the food, the cooking and serving—all are directed by a master mind. It is a pity some of our hospitals cannot obtain Home Sisters trained at the Home of Rest; it would be a first-class school of domestic economy. And the Sussex Square gardens, with the enclosed sea-front terrace, make privacy possible even in busy Brighton."

"Labby" and Mr. Sydney Holland are arguing in *Truth* on the question of nurses' working hours, and the former is all for eight-hour shifts in the wards, six days a week, and a month's holiday in

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