

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Christmas in the hospitals is always enjoyable, and, although of late years the profuse decorations which were formerly so great a feature have been curtailed in the interests of hygiene, yet none the less is the festival honoured. From the Sovereign downwards gifts have been received, of poultry, game, clothing, toys, wherewith to keep the feast. The medical and nursing staffs have thrown themselves into the spirit of the hour, and provided excellent variety entertainments, and the result has been general enjoyment, hilarity and pleasure.

Altogether, London gave a Christmas dinner to 73,605 of its "poor relations" in Poor Law institutions, an increase of between 600 and 700 upon the number last year. The Christmas entertainments in the metropolitan workhouses cost the ratepayers about £10,000. We hope all the poor and needy had plenty of good cheer and fun for the money. "Teas" of a sumptuous order have been in full swing in hospitals and infirmaries all the week.

A very happy Christmas Day was spent at the Sir Julian Goldsmid Home for Nurses at Sussex Square, Brighton. There were ten guests, and all were made to feel "quite at home." Miss Fowler, of the R.N.S., most kindly sent a splendid turkey, Miss Salmon dessert, and the beautiful floral decorations were given and arranged by Mrs. McIntyre with very fine taste, which goes without saying. We hear the bill of fare was thoroughly seasonable and greatly enjoyed; and that the healths of Mrs. Lionel Lucas and the Hon. Secretary were heartily proposed and responded to. Games and music filled in a real good time.

Dr. Ridge's Food Company have forwarded a parcel of their celebrated Food to a great number of children's hospitals, besides having sent over a thousand toys to "Truth's Toy Fund" at the Albert Hall.

The correspondence still continues in the *Times* for and against the support of Fitzroy House Private Hospital by large charitable donations. This institution has already sopped up many thousands

of pounds, and should long ago have been placed on a business-like, self-supporting basis, and should cease to admit wealthy patients who can, and do, pay £10 10s. for a room. Like so many of Sir Henry Burdett's schemes, an attempt is made to combine charity with business—the Pension Fund is worked on the same undesirable system—and the public don't like it; nor do we.

The distribution of the prizes and certificates to the probationary nurses who have passed their examinations satisfactorily at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children was made by the Duchess of Beaufort. The following is the list of successful candidates:—

Anatomy and Physiology.—Second-year Nurses: Nurse Moseley, prize; Nurse Jarman and Nurse Cooper, certificates of honourable mention. First-year Nurses: Nurse Corbett and Nurse White, prizes; Nurse Lewis, Nurse Thompson, and Nurse Jefferys, certificates of honourable mention. Medical Nursing.—Second-year Nurses: Nurse Moseley, prize; Nurse Jarman, certificate of honourable mention. First-year Nurses: Nurse Corbett, prize; Nurse Lewis and Nurse White, certificates of honourable mention.

Mr. Alfred N. Price proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Theodore Fisher and Mr. Elwin Harris for their services in lecturing to the nursing staff during the present session, and Mr. Henry Fedden seconded the resolution. Dr. Fisher acknowledged the vote in a humorous speech.

The Matron (Miss Mattick), in proposing a very cordial vote of thanks to the Duchess for her kindness in coming to present the prizes, mentioned the pleasure her presence gave to the nursing staff on the occasion. Miss Mattick, whilst congratulating the nurses who were successful as prize-winners and holders of certificates, explained, by way of consolation to the non-prize-winners, that it did not necessarily follow that the best nurses were those who carried off the prizes. Very often the practical work in the ward, and the tact and kindness in dealing with the patients, carried more weight with the Matron, and she had much reason to be pleased with many of the nurses to whom no prize had been awarded, a very high standard having been reached by all.

We warmly appreciate the presence of mind shown by Miss Dunn, the Lady Superintendent of the Jubilee District Nursing Association at Hull. Whilst on a duty round with a nurse the latter was knocked down by a horse and wagon, and, but for Miss Dunn's prompt help, who managed to back the animal, might have been seriously injured, or killed. Courage in any form is an admirable virtue, too little cultivated by our sex.

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