

Nursing Echoes.

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On Saturday last, Princess Christian opened at Windsor the medical and surgical home which she has founded as a memorial of her son, Prince Christian Victor, who died at Pretoria during the South African War. After declaring the Home open, the Princess presented long-service medals to four of the district nurses, with whose headquarters in Clarence Road the new Home is connected. The nurses to receive the medal were Miss Gleave, Miss Duckett, Miss Carpenter, and Miss Douglas.

The East London Nursing Society, established thirty-six years ago to nurse the sick poor in their own homes by means of trained resident nurses, reports that last year it dealt with 4,652 cases, and could certainly count on 3,234 recoveries, with probably many more among the patients removed to hospitals or elsewhere. There were 549 cases and 11,400 visits more than in 1902. The Society has twenty-seven nurses in thirty-four parishes, and their work was reported as very satisfactory by the inspector of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, with which the Society is affiliated. But the Society is anxious, because unless it gets an immediate income of at least £350 a year it will have to take the disastrous step of reducing the number of nurses.

The London fund for the relief of the widows and families of Japanese soldiers and sailors has reached £5,000.

In our advertising columns it will be found that a Sister is required at the Bordeaux Protestant Hospital. She must be fully trained, and hold the L.O.S. certificate if possible. A knowledge of French is also indispensable.

We draw special attention to this vacancy, because it appears to us a unique opportunity for a good, able and cultured woman to offer herself for the work. It is very important work. When we remember that is only within recent years that the nursing school in connection with this hospital has been organised by Dr. Anna Hamilton on a modern basis—a system quite foreign to France—and that its progress is being closely watched

throughout the French hospital world, we grasp at once how all-important it is that it should prove a success. Such success depends entirely upon the type of women engaged in this fine pioneer work. Therefore, if one of our very best, nicest, and cleverest Sisters or nurses will go forth on this worthy mission, let her offer her services at once.

No more wasteful system of housekeeping can be devised than the serving out of regulation rations to each member of an institution, quite independently of their ability to consume them. It will be remembered that, when Lord Sandhurst was first appointed Chairman of the Middlesex Hospital, by regulating the bread supply to the needs of the patients he saved £200 in one year on the bread bill alone. Now the Master of the Christ Church Union has reported that by allowing the inmates as much bread as they required, instead of giving each a certain quantity, the Guardians have in six months saved three tons of bread, the cost of which would have been over £27. Where invalids are concerned, as in an infirmary ward, appetites are often precarious, and the mere fact of having a large portion of bread served out creates a disinclination to eat any. A curious fact in relation to the system of rations under the Poor Law is that, the higher the position of the official, the larger the appetite, apparently, he or she is expected to have. We remember being astounded at the weekly rations supplied to the Superintendent of Nurses at a large London Poor Law infirmary. It seemed impossible that even a male potentate could have consumed the half.

Miss Alice J. Beatty, M.R.B.N.A., has refused to pay rates to the Hammersmith Borough Council because of a minute on the books of the West London Hospital, which is rate-aided, that she is not to receive attention there.

Mr. H. Jenner-Fust's return to the Local Government Board in relation to his district, comprising Lancashire, Westmorland, and part of Cumberland, shows that the number of sick in the workhouses of the district is 10,436, of nurses on day duty 633, and on night duty 217. There is still great need for more night nurses. This may easily be realised when we find that there is on an average only one nurse at night to forty-eight patients. There is, says the report, a regrettable increase in the number of pauper attendants on the sick, and with regard to imbeciles there is a steady increase from year to year in the number of patients to each attendant.

A probationer in their infirmary has written to the Sculcoates Guardians resigning her post, the ground being that her position was likely to be made miserable. Is this another "ragging" case?

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