

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



There was no question about Shoreditch being *en fête* on Tuesday last, when the Shoreditch and Bethnal Green Nursing Association held its Sale of Work. As one left Hackney Road and entered Nichols Square one saw strings of people dressed in their smartest clothes wending their way to the Nurses' Home, flags, bunting, and other decorations in the windows acting as guides to the strangers who were seeking their way to the Home. This proved a large substantial building, with a garden at the back, which was charmingly decorated, and at the end of which a platform was erected.

Her Highness Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, arrived amidst a good deal of cheering and was presented with a lovely bouquet of La France roses by Miss Winnie Oliver.

The Rev. H. V. S. Eck, as Vice-Chairman, gave the Princess an address of welcome and explained to her that the fact of her taking the trouble to come and open the Fête and Sale of Work, would be a help to the Committee in trying to raise much and urgently needed funds to support the Home. For, though they received help and support from the Q.V.J.I. Fund, and subscriptions from many charitable people, yet there was still a large deficit. Many kind things were said about the good work of the nurses in the homes of the poor, where grief and sickness were, their visits were looked forward to with joy.

And then came the prettiest part of the Fête as thirty-two children gave purses to the Princess, who put them into a basket. Several of them were little mites who refused to give up the purses and had to be coaxed by Her Highness into doing so, whilst one sturdy little boy marched up and ignoring the Princess, threw his purse into the basket and walked on, without so much as giving a shadow of a bow or salute. The Princess then opened the Sale of Work, Miss Peter and the nurses presiding at the refreshment stall. A number of little tables were placed in the garden, the nurses

attending to the guests, while a string band of Highbury ladies played.

It is to be hoped a substantial sum will be the result of this charmingly arranged Fête.

Dr. Rupert Bucknall has reported as follows on the examination for nurses at the St. Pancras South Infirmary:

"The examination comprised a paper of six questions on medicine, surgery, general and special nursing; and a *viva voce* and practical part on anatomy, physiology, medicine, surgery, testing, and the use of splints and instruments.

"Both in the written and oral portions of the examination candidates were questioned with regard to those disorders which are frequently met with in infirmaries; they were also questioned concerning those diseases which are more frequently met with in general than in infirmary practice, as a test of their general knowledge. The excellent answers to the latter group of questions afforded remarkable evidence of the careful and complete teaching they had received.

"As will be seen in the list, all the candidates obtained more than half-marks in both the paper and the *viva voce*.

"The standard of the examination being a high one, half-marks merit a qualifying certificate.

"Each of the nurses competing, therefore, fully deserves such a certificate. Nurse Rolfe has passed with very great distinction, and more than two-thirds of the nurses have obtained four-fifths of the full total of marks.

"In my experience of nurses' examinations at several of the large London hospitals, I do not remember to have met with such excellent examination results, and the nurses showed a splendid all-round knowledge of their work.

"I regard the high standard reached as most satisfactory, as it shows a general desire for efficiency among the nursing staff, and proves that the methods of instruction now in vogue are as serviceable and attractive as they could be."

A satisfactory report was presented at the Twentieth Annual Meeting of the Nurses' Pension Fund, Mr. Everard A. Hambro, presided. Mr. Pollitt, Treasurer of the Blackburn District Nursing Association, expressed the opinion that a united effort should be made throughout the country to secure for nurses better pay and thus enable them to make a better provision for their future. The Chairman expressed his sympathy with the suggestion, but said there were difficulties in the way.

This question of a nurse's remuneration is of a somewhat complex nature. During a three years' training in hospital—if an efficient education is given—the pay cannot be great; but what is wanted is opposition to the exploitation of the nurses' labour by hospital governors

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