

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) has given her patronage to a military ball to be held in the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, on December 3rd, in aid of the East Scottish branch of the Alexandra Nurses' Association. The long list of patronesses includes the names of the Marchioness of Tweeddale, the Marchioness of Tullibardine, the Countess of Mar and Kellie, the Countess of Rothes, Lady Balfour of Burleigh, Georgina Lady Belhaven and Stenton, Lady Ruthven, Lady Kinross, Lady Dunedin, and Miss Haldane of Auchterarder.

For the second time recently there has been an alarming outbreak of fire at the London Hospital, originating in the laundry on the ground floor. The staff at once got to work with a hydrant, and it took some fifty firemen, who were soon on the spot, twenty minutes to subdue the flames. The laundry was considerably damaged, and the Matron's quarters had a sousing and a narrow escape. There was, naturally, much excitement amongst the patients, and the nurses showed the coolness and courage women usually do in emergencies, and soon allayed their fears.

We learn that Mr. Sydney Holland lately made a night round at the London Hospital unattended by the Matron—as Chairman, no doubt, he has the right to do so—yet it is a somewhat daring innovation in hospital management. Mr. Holland made it known that he was satisfied with his tour of inspection, especially that he found that there was no waste of lights.

At a meeting of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, Lord Goschen presiding, reports from the various committees were presented, these showing that the general work of the Institute continued to progress satisfactorily. The Finance Committee, however, reported that in the estimates for 1908 a deficit approaching £3,000 was anticipated, and that

it was urgently needed to increase the annual list of subscribers.

At the Annual Meeting of the Hunstanton Nurses' Association, at which Mr. James Willoughby, Chairman of the Urban District Council, presided, Miss Leete, one of the Hon. Secretaries, read the report of the Working Committee, which stated that the Committee had felt it doubtful if the Association could afford a Queen's Nurse. This, doubtless, influenced Nurse Ratcliff, who sent in her resignation, and had since been appointed Assistant Superintendent to the Hereford County Association. Nurse Kirk had since been appointed at an inclusive salary of £70, as against £90, and they now recommended her permanent appointment. The first year, though not a brilliant success, had resulted in their paying their way, and a gain of much useful experience.

On the recommendation of the Committee, it was decided to sever the connection of the Association with the Queen's Jubilee Institute. The decision is greatly to be regretted because there is a definite standard of training required of Queen's Nurses, which ensures efficient nurses to the poor, whereas when committees of lay persons without expert nursing knowledge arrange matters, they have usually more regard for the meagreness of the salary a nurse is willing to accept than for her qualifications as a nurse.

An institution whose work must commend itself to all is the Home of Comfort for the Sick and Dying at 17, Victoria Grove, Southsea, where patients who are unable to obtain the care and nursing they require are received in the last stage of illness. Such Homes are all too few, and it would be hard to find a worthier object of help. The patients are expected to contribute towards their maintenance, or to endeavour to find a friend who will help them. The charges vary from 12s. 6d. to £2 2s. a week. Financial help will be thankfully received by Mother Emma, Head Deaconess, St. Andrew's Home, Portsmouth.

The Mansfield Board of Guardians are very irate with the members of the nursing staff, who, objecting to complaints of extravagance by the Board, have written to the local Press. Mr. Miln remarked that "such kicking over the traces amounted to insubordination," and Nurse Powell has resigned because she considers that only those who have an intimate knowledge of hospital work can form an idea of its value. The average Guar-

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