

Nursing Echoes.

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needs doing.

Owing to pressure on our space this week the report of the Executive Committee of the Society for State Registration is held over. The names of the forty-nine new members who were elected will appear next week. It would be nice if subscriptions for 1908 could be sent in at an early date, as much work which costs money

Adeline Duchess of Bedford recently presided at a meeting of the Executive of Queen Alexandra's Committee. It was reported that 181 ladies had been enrolled during the year as members of Queen Alexandra's Committee, each guaranteeing £10 per annum towards the sum of £2,000 promised on behalf of the Committee to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses. The hope was expressed that before the end of the year the remaining members will have been enrolled to complete the number of two hundred, to which the Committee is limited. Early in the New Year the Duchess will submit to the Queen an official report as to the individual efforts of the ladies composing the Committee.

We have it on good authority that all nurses trained at the London Hospital and still in its service, who have not completed a full term of three years in the wards, are to return to the hospital for this purpose, and presumably this longed-for privilege—three years' practical experience in the wards—will in the future be the standard at this hospital. We hope this information is correct. The clinical experience to be gained in nursing the sick at the London cannot be excelled—no hospital in the kingdom has a greater variety of acute and interesting cases admitted to its wards, and if the committee has at last decided to increase the term of the training and experience for its certificate to three years, both the committee and the nursing staff are to be warmly congratulated. By and by we foresee a magnificent League

of "Londoners" taking front rank and a rightful share in their professional affairs.

Miss H. L. Pearse, Superintendent, recently gave a tea to the London County Council School Nurses, and spoke to them of co-operation. Until the coming of Miss Pearse these nurses worked as units, and found themselves somewhat isolated. It is probable that through the sympathetic advice of their Superintendent, this little band of very valuable workers may at no distant date be brought into friendly and professional touch with many of their colleagues who are fully alive to the far-reaching benefits to the community of this special branch of nursing.

Miss Beatrice Kent, a lady of wide nursing experience in general, district, private, and midwifery nursing, and of well-known public spirit, has consented to act as honorary secretary, during the preliminary stages, of the inquiry by the Matrons' Council into a workable organisation for a Nurses' Defence League. We hope our readers will find time at this busy season to study and reply to her letter to be found in another column.

Complaints are often made by the educated public that certificated private nurses have cramped minds—certainly but little is done in the majority of training schools to broaden them. This week alone we interviewed a nurse trained in one of the big Metropolitan schools, who "knew nothing of registration," which has now been a burning question for twenty years, and a Sister in the same institution, we are told, "had never heard of the Queen's Jubilee Institute." Needless to say, there is no Nurses' League in connection with this institution.

In the Marble Saloon of the Grand Hotel, W., on Wednesday, the 18th, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Sir John and Lady Bell, presented the prizes gained by the successful competitors in connection with the 18th Universal Cookery and Food Exhibition held in London from November 5th to 9th. Prizes to the value of £1,500 were awarded, consisting of shields, medals (gold, silver, and bronze), certificates of merit, and substantial sums of money. The object of the Society is to popularise cookery, and the officials are all voluntary workers. The exhibition this year resulted in a profit of £600, the whole of which will be given to hospital charities. Amongst those who received medals, certificates, and prizes were nurses from the following hos-

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