

Nursing Echoes.



The Queen and the Empress Marie last week paid an unexpected visit to the Alexandra Hospital, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, as it chanced, in the middle of the spring cleaning. On the Matron, Miss Fitch, apologising, her Majesty said, "That is exactly what I prefer; I wish to see you under normal conditions."

The Queen gave great delight to the little patients by speaking to each one, and gave a basket or a box of chocolates to every child. The Royal visitors, before leaving, took tea at the hospital, and congratulated Miss Fitch on the arrangements made for the comfort of the patients.

The value of the work of the Leicester Trained Nurses' Institution was abundantly demonstrated at the recent annual meeting, when Miss Carryer had no hesitation in affirming that if the district work stopped it would be necessary to open from two to four extra wings at the North Evington Infirmary. We are glad to learn that the private nursing branch is self-supporting.

Leicester is fortunate in its nursing institutions; its Infirmary stands for all that is efficient and progressive, and it has also a charming Nursing Home, under the direction of Miss E. Pell-Smith, at 2, De Montford Square. Many of the private nursing homes in the country bear favourable comparison to those in London, where space is so valuable, and every inch of room has to be considered, and one of the provincial homes, which has gained a high reputation is that under the control of Miss E. Pell Smith, who is not only a thoroughly trained and experienced nurse, but possesses those qualities of sympathy and devotion which infuse an atmosphere of rest into her surroundings, an atmosphere which is so essential in any institution in which the sick are received.

The trustees of the Bromhead (Lincoln) Institution for Nurses, in presenting their 41st annual report, refer to the Miss Bromhead memorial fund, to which a sum exceeding £2,000 has been received, and state that it is proposed to provide a new home for the institution to perpetuate the memory of Miss Bromhead. The committee has finally decided to

purchase Essendon House, on Nettleham Road. During the year eleven nurses have been constantly employed among the poor in the city, and twelve districts are now being nursed by the institution, the services rendered in nine being entirely gratuitous.

The term nurse is one which in this country, the United States, and elsewhere, is by common consent applied to the competent worker whose duty in life is to care for the sick. It has the merit of being short, distinctive, and easy of use for patients, and has, by the devotion of many members of our profession become an honourable title, recognised as such throughout the world.

In France there has hitherto been no word answering to this term; "infirmière" and "garde-malade" which are both in use in French hospitals, do not convey the idea of the trim, high principled, competent lay woman whom we associate with the term nurse. It is of great interest to learn that the word "neurse" is now to be adopted in France—a new word to describe a new thing—as Professor Ernest Rochelle announces in *La Garde Malade Hospitalière*, i.e., the woman trained in modern methods, who is beginning to be a force in French hospitals, and for whose work Professor Rochelle expresses his sincere admiration.

It will be remembered that Dr. Letulle, at the Paris Nursing Conference, drew attention to the difficulty of finding a word which accurately described the modern nurse in France, and it is probably not one of the least important results of the Conference that it has been decided to adopt a French version of the English name.

M. Mirman, the Director of the Department of Public Hygiene connected with the Ministry of the Interior in France, recently paid a visit to the nursing schools at Bordeaux. His first visit was to the Maison de Santé Protestante, and recognising the important part it has played in serving as a model in the organisation of other schools, especially of the Tondu Hospital, to which at the foundation of the school it furnished a Directrice and nine certificated nurses, M. Mirman paid it the pretty compliment of calling it the "*Maison-Mère*," the Mother School, a happy title for an institution to which nursing in the South of France owes so much.

Miss Bella Crosby writes from Toronto:
"I feel as if I got a letter from you often, for

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