

### Nursing Echoes.



Wednesday, January 27th, was a day on which London was enveloped in one of the worst fogs of the season, and not only London but distant suburbs, so that on reaching the station at Northwood *en route* for the Mount Vernon Hospital, where the Matron, Miss Donaldson, had issued invitations to a meeting of the Nurses' National Total Abstinence League, one felt somewhat dubious as to arriving at one's destination, as the way to it lay through the fog over roads covered with ice. Once arrived, however, the cordiality of one's reception and the enthusiasm of the speakers and audience, atoned for the chilly journey, and never was the excellent tea which Miss Donaldson hospitably provided more welcome.

Dr. F. W. Price, Hon. Physician to Mount Vernon Hospital, was in the chair, and introduced the subject for discussion, "The Responsibility of the Nursing Profession towards Temperance Work," more especially from the social standpoint. The speaker of the afternoon was Mr. Herbert Paterson, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the London Temperance Hospital, who dealt ably with the scientific side of the question. Mrs. Herbert Rhodes, Hon. Secretary of the Nurses' Total Abstinence League, then spoke, explaining the objects of the League, and invited any nurses, not already members, to join it. A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Paterson for his Address, and to Miss Donaldson for her kindness in organising the meeting, was moved by Miss Richardson, Matron of the London Temperance Hospital, who was present with a contingent of Sisters and Nurses, and seconded by Dr. Kinton, who said that he thought that if anyone in the room was not a total abstainer already, she would join the League after hearing Mr. Paterson's address. The hymn at the end, with the refrain "God Save the People," set to a fine tune, went wonderfully well, the singing being unusually good.

Many nurses know the beautiful little Chapel of the Ascension in the Bayswater Road, but not so many are acquainted with the six acres of open space which lie behind it. Formerly it was a burial ground to St. George's, Hanover Square, and at present, though kept in an orderly condition, is quite uninteresting. Mr.

John D. Batten, of 16, Edwardes Square, Kensington, W., is interested in a project which, if carried into effect, would be greatly valued by many women workers, and especially by trained nurses, namely, to convert this ground into a women's garden, in which they could enjoy fresh air and rest under other conditions than obtain either in the streets or the parks.

Listen to this tired woman worker: "The garden that I imagine would be essentially a place of rest and ease, not in any sense a playground; a garden with a few trees, but rich in flowers, with shady and with sunny walks, and with broad spaces of lawn between the flower walks. There should be plenty of seats, and some places of shelter from the rain."

While we thoroughly support this delightful suggestion, we take exception to this ground not being considered a playground, because at present poor children from the neighbourhood thoroughly enjoy it as such. We speak with some experience because for many years it is the only opportunity we have had of enjoying the scent of fresh hay, when in the summer the abundant grass has been cut, and when we have often watched with pleasure poor little children tossing the scented grass about with keen enjoyment.

No doubt the embellishment of these restful acres would be appreciated by many. Those who desire this and would be likely to use the garden should communicate with Mr. Batten forthwith, as the carrying out of the project depends largely on the support received from the women of the neighbourhood.

We are in cordial sympathy with the views expressed by Mr. Pollitt, of Birmingham, on the question of Nurses' Pensions, which was discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Manchester and Stockport District Nursing Association, when the Chairman stated that when the present distress was less acute, the Lady Mayoress hoped to hold a large meeting in the Town Hall to consider the question. Mr. Pollitt said it was extraordinary that this should be necessary. What was really wanted was that nurses should be properly paid so that they could provide their own pensions. A pension was really deferred pay.

It is not many centuries ago since religious strife ran high in Scotland, between devout Catholics on the one hand, and the equally devout Covenanters on the other, and members of both parties were faithful to their

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