

Nursing Echoes.



The British Medical Association at its Annual Representative Meeting devoted considerable time to the discussion of School Nurses and School Nursing, and adopted the following resolution:—

“That in medical inspection the duty of the school nurse should be, in the opinion of the Representative meeting, simply to assist the school medical officer at the time of his inspection of the children.”

Miss Amy Hughes, General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, speaking at Winchester at a meeting of the Hampshire County Nursing Association, at which the Countess of Selborne presided, said that under the Children's Act district nurses are being largely employed as infant life protection visitors, Boards of Guardians being called to obtain the services of the nurses who know the people and can visit the foster parents in the course of their ordinary work. These responsibilities are heavy and far-reaching, but it is found that women who come forward as midwives and village nurses and the fully trained nurses, who become Queen's nurses, willingly accept these duties, and throughout the country they are realising the importance of such positions and feeling proud that they are able to assist not only in starting the little lives on the best possible lines but by watching them through infancy and childhood, they are assisting to build up a strong and healthy race of men and women. Moreover, the influence of district nurses in the homes of the people on the side of all that makes for good is very great. They have the power of sowing seeds of self-respect, self-help, and a higher standard of life both morally and physically, and this influence is doing untold good in a quiet and unassuming way.

Mr. J. C. Warner, Chairman of the Committee of Management of the Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester, in presenting the annual report, said that in common with all hospitals and charities finance was the overpowering consideration with them. The expenditure of the hospital had been reduced, and one reason for this was that the whole staff had done their utmost to reduce the expenditure in every department; it was not attributed to one department only; all concerned in the management of the hospital had done their

best to cut down their expenditure. There was a considerable reduction in drugs, dressings, bandages, and appliances, which was the more noteworthy because the number of serious operations had been increased by fifty. This points to economical administration of the nursing department under the able superintendence of Miss Carpenter Turner.

On her recent visit to Leicester, Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, who had a most enthusiastic reception, made a delightful, because quite informal, speech. She described how, when she was trained, the hospitals in New York would have nothing to do with each other, and how it was thought quite a disgrace for the nurses of one hospital to know the nurses in another; in fact, they “kept themselves to themselves.” But now this spirit had passed away, and nurses—instead of standing aloof from—tried to hand on to each other any good things they might have. She caused much merriment by saying that the people in England who are trying to keep alive the old spirit would be said, in America, to belong to “back numbers.” She also gave a most instructive and interesting account of the social service work done by nurses in looking after patients who leave the various hospitals in New York.

The Report and Proceedings of the Jubilee Congress of District Nursing, held at Liverpool in May, are now published, in one volume, by D. Marples and Co., printers, 50a, Lord Street, Liverpool, price 2s. 9d., post free.

Her Excellency the Countess of Dudley, who took so great an interest in nursing matters in Ireland, when the Earl of Dudley was Lord-Lieutenant in that country, and established a scheme for supplying the poorest districts with thoroughly trained Queen's Nurses, is showing the same interest in New South Wales. Opening the Nurses' Home at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Sydney, she said “I know of the strenuousness, of the self-sacrifice, and of the devotion with which nurses' work is performed in England, and I suppose it is the same in New South Wales. Therefore I shall be glad to identify myself with everything pertaining to nurses and nursing. I realise what a respite and refreshment and a home like this would be to nurses in their busy lives, and in declaring the home open will you allow me to say, as I do, ‘May God bless and preserve this home always, and its inmates.’”

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)