

Nursing Echoes.



The new buildings at the National Hospital in Queen Square, W.C., were opened by the King last week, and the Queen, who was unable to accompany him, sent to the Lady Superintendent, Miss Lawrence, a large ornamental box of chocolates for the children in the hospital. Accompanying the gift was the following letter:—

DEAR MADAM,—The Queen sends this box of chocolates to the poor little children patients in this hospital with her deep sympathy. Her Majesty is so sorry that owing to absence from London she is prevented from accompanying the King in his Majesty's visit to your hospital to-day.—Yours faithfully, CHARLES FREDERICK.

Miss Lawrence was presented to the King in the "David Wire" Ward.

The War Office has abolished the post of Organising Matron in connection with the Territorial Force Nursing Service, and a Principal Matron for each division is to be appointed.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Territorial Force Nursing Service for London, held at the Mansion House, on Friday, the 5th inst., the bye-laws and annual report were considered and adopted for presentation to the annual meeting of the Grand Committee, which will be held at a date convenient to Lady Knill, the incoming Lady Mayoress, who is *ex-officio* Chairman of Committees.

A gathering full of interest was held in the Lord Mayor's Rooms at the Leeds Town Hall on the 4th inst, when Miss Haldane, the sister of the Secretary for War, presented badges to the members of the Territorial Force Nursing Service for Yorkshire. There are 121 nurses on the staff, who are attached to the 2nd Northern General Hospital, and eighty of them attended to receive their badges. The Lord Mayor presided, and that the nursing staff is regarded as an important part of the Territorial Force was evidenced by the number of Territorial officers present. In proposing a vote of thanks to Miss Haldane, Brigadier-General Altham made use of the opportunity to impress upon the nurses the importance of the work they would be called upon to do should war break out. In replying to the vote of thanks, Miss Haldane said it gave her the very greatest pleasure to be present. If it was worth while to maintain a great Territorial army it was worth while that it

should be complete in all particulars; thus the importance of organisation could not be over-estimated if we were to be prepared for every contingency. She thought the organisation of the nursing service was being done very efficiently. Miss Haldane urged the nurses to look upon their duty from the larger and national aspect. She wanted them to keep in mind that they had undertaken a great responsibility. They should keep high ideals of patriotism before them. It would help them to do their daily duties better, and they would have the knowledge that they were not restricted by the walls of their hospital.

We hear so much of private nurses' faults in these days that it is delightful to learn from Superintendents of Nurses working on the co-operation system that the public are beginning to realise that the system is just and to be encouraged. One patient writes: "I did so dread a hospital nurse, but this co-operation system meets my case exactly. There is co-operation between nurse, patient, doctor, and household arrangements that is truly delightful and prospers greatly."

It is the only system by which a nurse can develop. If she realises that when she undertakes private nursing she is not a mere machine to be sent here and there, without personal responsibility or initiative, but is making her own practice, it is wonderful how she grows. Like a medical practitioner, a "co-op" nurse soon learns that if she puts out the best that is in her, she is sure to be appreciated and make her mark with patients and doctors, and if that best is good, she is seldom without work. Moreover, when she takes her own fees—the just reward for her work—she "puts up" with little pricks and inconveniences, which otherwise are often magnified by discontent. Again, talent soon reaps its reward, whereas the institution system of a uniform salary is unfair to the best nurses, as all get the same salary, whether fully employed, or malingering in the home. Nurses, like other workers, must be put upon their mettle if they are to make the pace.

It is to be hoped, for the sake of the patients, that there will soon be a satisfactory settlement of the medical question at Salford Infirmary. A conference has been held between officers of the Local Government Board and some of the Salford Guardians. It is to be hoped whoever is appointed Medical Superintendent will at once set about supporting the Matron in her demand for a largely increased skilled nursing service.

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