

### Nursing Echoes.



The Annual Meeting of subscribers to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses was held at the offices, 58, Victoria Street, on Monday afternoon. The annual report, which was carried, stated that during the past year the subscriptions to the Queen's Fund reached the gratifying total of £2,038 odd, the donations amounting to over £1,164. Queen Alexandra's Committee, which was a Sub-Committee of the fund of the Institute, under the presidency of Adeline Duchess of Bedford, had again collected £2,000, which the Sub-Committee was able to transfer without making an inroad on their reserve fund. The Institute is doing a great national work, and should receive a much larger amount of financial support than it does.

The Lady Mayoress (Lady Knill) presided at the first meeting this year of the Executive Committee of the City and County of London Territorial Force Nursing Service, at the Mansion House on January 25th. A letter was received from Col. Oughterson, Secretary of the County of London Territorial Association, expressing his Association's appreciation of the efforts which had resulted in successfully providing nurses for the 3rd and 4th General Hospitals under its administration. The reports of the Principal Matrons of the four General Hospitals were presented, and it was stated, the news being received with great gratification, that the vacancies caused from retirements or other causes were but very few, in one case the total establishment of 120 nurses being only three short, while there were a large number of nurses on the waiting list for the vacancies. It was unanimously decided, in order to extend the influence of the organisation, to invite the Princess Royal to become President of the Association, and a number of well-known ladies are to be asked to become vice-presidents. It was also decided to invite her Majesty the Queen to present the badges to the Territorial nurses who have been enrolled. Mrs. Kinloch was elected a representative of the Committee on the Sub-Committee of No. 1 General Hospital. It was announced that Miss Sidney Browne had been appointed Matron-in-Chief of the Territorial Nursing Service for England and Scotland, and a vote of congratulation to Miss Browne was passed. A sub-committee, consisting of Lady Dimsdale, Lady Mackinnon,

Lady Beachcroft, and the Hon. Mrs. Charles Tufton, was appointed to bring up a list of names for the vacancies on the Grand Council.

There has been for some time past a feeling on the part of the Metropolitan Asylums Board that something should be done to improve the staff conditions in its hospitals. In this connection it was a striking fact that relatively few nurses trained in London general hospitals, who might be expected under favourable conditions to apply in large numbers for appointments under the Board, sought for such posts. As a preliminary the Board invited the Matrons of training schools in London to meet it and go into the question of this disproportion. Some of the Matrons accepted the invitation, and one, in particular, spoke very plainly as to the reasons why candidates for the higher ward posts in the Board's hospitals were not more numerous. It was then decided to do what was possible towards raising the status of the senior nursing staff and to improve the quality of the junior staff. As regards the latter proposal, by a happy coincidence the Fever Nurses' Association promoted its general scheme of training for probationers at the time when the matter was under consideration, and the scheme was such that it received the approval of the Board. Thus, what was perhaps the more difficult question has been quickly solved.

In reviewing the conditions which exist in the Board's hospitals, it is necessary to recognise the great difficulties which have to be faced in bringing about improvements. Their demand for assistant nurses, if fluctuating, is very great, and, as everyone who has to do with the staffing of hospitals knows, the stringency of selection must be lessened as the requirements increase. However, the changes which are recommended in the case of the senior staff are of a kind which should appeal to nurses with good general training, and if they are carried into effect, it may be taken that the sufficiency of candidates from hospitals in London will be forthcoming. They are liberal, and show much consideration for the welfare of the head nurses. The proposals as regards the junior nurses are in keeping with conditions which prevail in large fever hospitals outside the Board. It cannot be doubted that a proper training and certificate will attract more suitable candidates for junior posts than at present.

On the whole, the proposals of the Board mark the greatest advance in fever nursing that has taken place for many years. For, handi-

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