

Nursing Echoes.



The Countess of Dudley is on her way back to Australia, and Miss Amy Hughes also left England on the 15th inst. on the six months' leave granted by Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, to help with the organisation of a scheme of District Nursing in Australia. We hope no attempt will be made to institute the cottage nurse system in Australia. The skill of district nurses required for the poor and for patients in the bush should be of "Queen's Nurse" standard. Nothing but disorganisation will result if the Australasian standards of efficiency so carefully conserved by the State Associations of Nurses are tampered with.

Mr. Harold Boulton, the Treasurer of the Institute, has also left England for Australia at the invitation of Lord and Lady Dudley, who wish for his help and advice in the promotion of the district nursing scheme. Mr. Boulton has only just returned from Canada, where he spent some time in reorganising the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

We have received from Mr. H. Dixon Kimber, the legal adviser of Miss R. Bellamy—the nurse concerned in the tragedy at the Hemel Hempstead Infirmary—a letter commenting on the reply of the President of the Local Government Board to Mr. Morton in the House of Commons in reference to this case. Mr. Burns informed Mr. Morton that he was entirely mistaken as to the facts, and that "Nurse Bellamy was responsible." After stating the circumstances, which are sufficiently well known to our readers, Mr. Kimber asks "what greater demand for a public enquiry could be needed?"

The crux of the matter is that if a definite standard of training for nurses were required by the State Nurse Bellamy would not have been placed in a position of responsibility which her training and experience had not qualified her to hold.

It is evident that for the future avoidance of such tragedies in institutions for whose efficient working a Government Department is responsible, such Departments should press for the establishment and maintenance of a definite standard of nursing education under a legally constituted authority.

We congratulate the parish of Barnet on having secured the services of so able a Guardian as Miss Henrietta J. Hawkins, who has just been appointed to that position. Miss Hawkins takes a keen interest in social problems, and is a true friend of the poor, by whom she is much loved. She is a trained nurse of many years' standing and wide experience, experience which includes a knowledge of Poor Law administration as she has held the position of Assistant Matron at the Hackney Infirmary, so that she has a practical knowledge of Poor Law methods, which will be valuable to her in her present office. She is a certified midwife, and has also a close acquaintance with the care of the insane, as she is the daughter of the late Rev. H. Hawkins, for so many years Chaplain to the Colney Hatch Asylum, the founder of the "After Care Association," to whose compassionate heart the needs of the patients discharged from Asylums strongly appealed. For some years Miss Hawkins did district midwifery in the parish of St. Saviour's, Poplar. As Ward Sister and Matron she has had much administrative experience, so that a more useful member could scarcely have been appointed to the Barnet Board of Guardians.

The new School at the "Policlinico" at Rome quite recently opened for the training of Italian probationers, has begun with a rush, and everyone has been very busy getting things into order. The triple capacity for work of Miss Dorothy Snell, Miss Amy Turton, and Miss Clay is equal to any emergency, so that ultimate success is assured for this most interesting bit of pioneer nursing. But it would appear that the large staff already engaged will have to be supplemented in a few months' time, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has undertaken by request to interview English nurses who feel drawn towards helping to start the School either as Sisters or nurses. Candidates must hold a certificate of three years' training. A little knowledge of Italian would be very useful, so that candidates selected on reserve might begin to learn it. Preference will be given to those who are of the Roman Catholic faith, but this is not a necessity, as a non-proselytising promise must be signed. The Committee are doing all in their power to ensure the success of the scheme, and it must be clearly understood that this institution for training Italian probationers in wards which will need patience and perseverance to reform, is a new undertaking in Italy, and entails all the difficulties which are inevitable in pioneer work. The salaries for Sisters are £42, and for

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