

### Nursing Echoes.



At a recent meeting of the council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, held at the offices in Victoria Street, Lord Goschen presiding, affiliation was granted to the following nursing associations: Buckinghamshire County, Chesterton (Cambridge), St. Helier (Jersey), Chepstow (Mon.), Wakefield (Yorks), Llangadock (Carmarthenshire), Tondur (Glamorganshire), Celbridge and Straffan (county Kildare), Beckington (Somerset), Malvern Link (Worcestershire), and Newbury (Berks). The names of 80 nurses approved by her Majesty were added to the Queen's Roll. It was reported that a conference of representatives of the affiliated associations would take place at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on May 27th, and it was announced that Amy Lady Tate, a member of the council, has presented the house occupied by the nurses employed by the Brixton Association, together with an endowment, to be held in trust by the institute for the Brixton Association so long as it remains in affiliation with the institute.

The Hospitals Committee of the Metropolitan Asylums Board has now under consideration a letter from Matrons of its infectious hospitals, forwarding certain criticisms of the Managers' decision with regard to the abolition of the office of Night Superintendent of Nurses. The letter is as follows:

"We, the under-signed Matrons working in your several institutions, have had our attention called to a statement in the public press concerning some proposed alteration in the terms of appointment for the Night Superintendents of the Fever Hospitals. Recognising as we do the very serious responsibility attaching to the office of Night Superintendent, who has practically the whole institution under her control at night, she being the one who must act in such emergencies as may arise in connection with cases of tracheotomy, intubation, etc., where the lives of the patients are sometimes in danger, until the doctor can be summoned, and that the Night Superintendent is also required to exercise discipline and control over the whole of the night staff, we consider that she should be a person possessing qualities over and above those of an ordinary Ward Sister, and that frequent changes in this office would not be conducive either to the safety of the patients or the general administration of the hospital. If it is desired to put some limit to the period spent on night duty, we venture to suggest that if a suitable person is Night Superin-

tendent she should be eligible for reappointment every year as long as she is found satisfactory. Trusting you will give this your earnest consideration, we are," etc.

The Hospitals Committee will report to the Board when they have considered this letter.

At the Annual Meetings of the Women's Total Abstinence Union in London, the Nurses' Total Abstinence League and the Certified Midwives' Total Abstinence League gave interesting reports of work.

The Nurses' League reports a membership of 443. It is encouraging to note that the attitude of the nursing profession towards the question of total abstinence becomes increasingly sympathetic, and this is, without doubt, due, in part, to the fact that scientific and medical evidence speaks so clearly in its favour. The League has held several meetings in Hospitals, and Drawing-room Meetings have been given by the Dowager Lady de Rothschild, Mrs. Pearce Gould, and others. A Branch of the League exists in Birmingham with 78 members.

The Certified Midwives' League was founded by Dr. Mary Rocke in 1905, and affiliated to the Women's Total Abstinence Union in 1909. It has a membership of 460. Meetings have been held in drawing-rooms and at the Chapter House, St. Paul's Churchyard. Branches have been formed at Nottingham and Oxford.

Particulars of both these Leagues can be obtained from the Secretary, 4, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.

The Annual Meeting of the St. Pancras School for Mothers was held at the St. Pancras Town Hall on Monday last, when Mrs. Carl Meyer presided. The annual report was presented by Dr. Sykes, Medical Officer of Health for the Borough, who said that the work of the school fell under three principal headings—educational, prudential, and medical. The medical element was, and should be, a strong one, and no treatment of mothers, no administration of artificial food to infants, and no day nursing should be carried on without medical advice.

The next speaker was Dr. Saleeby, who remarked that babies and their welfare might be thought to be a women's question, but it touched men vitally also, and was a national one, in which were involved the consideration of race degeneration, its causes, and prevention. In time to come it would be recognised that the movement against infantile mortality was one which began in the Edwardian era. At the close of Queen Victoria's reign the medical

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