

## Nursing Echoes.



Miss Nightingale, O.M., received the following telegram of congratulation from the King on her 90th birthday on the 12th of May:—  
 "On the occasion of your 90th birthday I offer you my heartfelt congratulation, and trust that you are in good health.—GEORGE R. & I."

A telegram was immediately sent on behalf of Miss Nightingale expressing respectful thanks to his Majesty for his gracious congratulation. Miss Nightingale's birthday was celebrated very quietly, since she is an invalid.

Sir William J. Collins, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.P., will preside at the annual meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association, of which he is President, which will be held on May 25th, at 11, Chandos Street, W., at 8 p.m. The proceedings will include the presentation of medals to nurses and attendants for long and meritorious service, and of an illuminated address to the President and a Testimonial to the Hon. Secretary, Dr. Shuttleworth, in commemoration of the passing of the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act.

The Fever Nurses' Association are to have the privilege of holding their Annual Meeting in the fine offices of the Metropolitan Asylums Board on the Victoria Embankment, on May 23rd, when it is expected that there will be a large attendance of members of this young and energetic Association.

The current issue of the "Woman at Home" contains a story by Mr. Stephen Townesend, "A Leaf from a Hospital Day-Book," and many nurses will recognise the hospital in which the incident related occurs, where "nothing broke the stillness of the ward but the mellow cooing of the pigeons, and the ceaseless patter of the fountain in the hospital square," and also Sister Mary, "Little Sister" as she was spoken of by all who loved her—and this was indeed by all who knew her well—possessed of a keen observation, an unerring intuition, which combined with twenty years' experience in the chief surgical female ward of a leading London hospital, had made her an expert in diagnosis." It is a tragic story, but well written, as is to be expected of the author of "A Thoroughbred Mongrel." Moreover, it is a true picture.

The author writes of what he knows, not a travesty of hospital life conjured in the brain of the sentimental novelist.

It is evident that the path of the School Nurse working under the Devon Education Committee is beset with difficulties, from the letters of irate parents, one of whom wrote "to the lady inspector of children's heads": "I am capable of keeping my children's heads clean without your help. I have had six children going to school for the last 30 years. Never had any complaints before. If there is any more of your impudence I shall see further into it." One man threatened "to comb the nurse's hair if he got hold of her," and yet another objected to the waste of public money involved in the nurse's inspection, and suggested an examination of the mental faculties of the promoters of the scheme, or that they should be provided with furnished apartments in the Devon and Exeter Asylum. From which it will be gathered that the position of school nurse is not a bed of roses.

We frankly regret that the wealthy and influential women who have organised the North and South Wales District Nursing Associations have adopted the insufficient standard of one year's training for nurses to be supplied to the poor. It seems going back in nursing standards to before the flood. Speaking at Bangor the Hon. Mrs. H. Lloyd Mostyn said: "They all knew the value of Queen's Nurses, and highly did they appreciate them. The wonder was how this country got on without them, and never, to her mind, was a movement more needed than that which produced the Queen's Nurses. They wished it were possible to have a Queen's Nurse in every parish and district in the country, but there were not enough funds. So it had been decided to provide in future a supply of village nurses, who will have had 12 months' district and maternity training, and will be certified under the Midwives' Act. The cost of training a village nurse was £60!"

These workers are therefore legally "certified midwives," and should be called and classed as such—"skilled nurses" after nine months' experience they cannot be. How is it that wealthy leisured women are content to provide for the poor a standard of nursing which they would not utilise in their own homes? The excuse that there are "not enough funds" is surely a sorry one. In plain parlance because a person is poor, a cheap and semi-trained woman is considered good

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