

### Nursing Echoes.



Following on the cruel treatment of Nurse Bellamy at Hemel Hempstead, the nursing profession has learnt with renewed indignation, not to say alarm, of the unconstitutional manner in which Miss Edith Gregory, the Matron of the London Fever Hospital, has been treated by the Committee.

We are glad to learn that Miss Gregory refused to resign, although personally urged to do so by the Chairman of the House Committee, without having an opportunity of knowing, and answering, the charges brought privately against her. We hope to refer to this case at some length in a future issue. In the meanwhile the lesson which trained nurses must take to heart is the insecurity of their professional status and personal reputation when it is possible that a hospital committee of men, who hold their positions as the trustees of public charity, should condemn unheard the responsible officials of a public institution. What we want to know is what accusations were brought against Miss Gregory behind closed doors, and who were her accusers, and we may add, without fear of contradiction, that were we in her place an answer to this question would be forthcoming either in the hospital committee room or elsewhere.

The Territorial Nursing Service continues its triumphant progress. It is deservedly popular because the nurses volunteer as individuals, and are not classed as "things." At a recent meeting of the local branch at the Castle, Exeter, Lady Fortescue presided. The following ladies living in or near Plymouth were invited to form an Executive Committee:—Lady Mary Parker, Mrs. Bastard, Mrs. Paulby, Mrs. P. Swain, Mrs. Russel Rendle, the Matrons of the S. Devon and E. Cornwall, and the Royal Albert Hospitals, and the *ex-officio* members. It was resolved to urge upon the authorities responsible "That badges should now be issued to those nurses whose names have been approved by the Organising Matron."

The Somerset Committee was also elected, and the Matrons of the following hospitals were placed upon it:—Bath Royal United Hospital, Taunton and Somerset Hospital, Bridgwater Hospital, Weston-super-Mare Hospital, and of the County Superintendent of the Somerset County Nursing Association.

On the occasion of the recent State visit of the Lord Mayor (Alderman Sir John Knill, Bart.), accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, Miss Knill, the Sheriffs and their ladies, to the Lewisham Infirmary, on January 13th, the Lady Mayoress presented certificates to the following nurses:—

Nurse Wiebkin, who took the first place in the first year examination, as well as in the third, and Nurses O'Connor, Boyd, Browne, Record, McKenzie, and Shearing, who were introduced to Lady Knill by the Matron, Miss Milicent Acton.

Dr. Toogood, the Medical Superintendent, said that the staff of the Infirmary included 51 nurses, the majority of whom were trained in the institution, and their examiner, Dr. Rose Bradford, always spoke in an exceedingly complimentary manner of their work and training.

One of our largest hospitals has come in for a huge bequest. May we venture to hope, therefore that a few additional comforts for the patients may be added to the somewhat meagre ward equipment. The serving of meals leaves much of nicety to the imagination. The complaint on more than one occasion has reached us, that tea is served in enamelled mugs, which, when deposited on the bedside locker, serve also as plates, as it is the custom to place the slabs of bread and butter on the mug, useful no doubt for the purpose of keeping the tea hot, but hardly calculated to improve the condition of the food. Surely it would be both sanitary and decent that a serviette should be provided for bed use, and as in these days the food of pussy and bow-wow is usually served on a china dish or saucer, our hospital patients might be supplied with tea plates, and also attain to the same degree of civilisation.

Joking apart, the food of every person, especially those who are sick, should be served in a cleanly and appetising manner, and there can be no excuse for the primitive methods employed at the hospital in question. Let us hope that the first expenditure of the bequest may be made in providing china cups and saucers, plates, diet tables, or serviettes, and clean knives, forks, and spoons for the use of the patients. In the training of nurses the niceties of food serving is quite as important as the sterilising of dressings—perhaps more so.

Mr. R. Hogarth Clay, Chairman of Committee, and Mr. S. J. Lawry, Hon. Secretary of the Devon and Cornwall Home, Plymouth, state that no canvassing has been done by any of their nurses in uniform for either

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