

Nursing Echoes.



On Saturday last the King and Queen paid a visit to the London Hospital, Whitechapel, E., and as it was the first opportunity which the people of London have had in any numbers of seeing their Majesties since the death of the late King, their visit aroused a good deal of interest to the crowds which assembled along the route.

The Royal visitors were received by the officials of the hospital, and visited some of the wards, Finsen and X-ray Departments, and the Out-patient Department.

In the last-named Department the nurses and students were assembled, and the Queen presented their certificates to the three probationers, who took the highest place in the recent examination, Miss McNab, Miss Derrick, and Miss Reid. We hope that the interest shown by her Majesty may stimulate the authorities of the London Hospital to increase the period of training for their probationers from two years to three, so as to bring the standard into conformity with that generally accepted throughout the kingdom—a reform which we know is keenly desired by many London Hospital nurses.

The King, when in the Outpatient Department, recalled to the Secretary, Mr. E. W. Morris, his last meeting with him, when, as Prince of Wales, he paid a private visit to the Department, sat among the students, and saw for himself how the women were treated by the doctors, as an allegation had been made, which he considered worthy of investigation, that the women outpatients at the London Hospital did not receive the respect to which their sex entitled them. He was satisfied on that occasion that they were treated with respect and delicacy.

We are glad that his Majesty is interesting himself in the outpatient departments of hospitals, as only a few weeks ago we heard from a nurse who took up a refined patient for advice to the London Hospital that she was required to undress before twenty-three other patients without any screens being provided, and it was reported not long since that a woman patient at the National Hospital, on entering a small room by the direction of a medical man, found when she opened the door it was occupied by a man destitute of clothing. If people are poor, they are still entitled to consideration and delicacy in their treatment.

In these days the art of advertising an institution often makes its success, and those interested in the Army and Navy Male Nurses' Co-operation were wise to invite the inspection of the British Medical Association of 47b, Welbeck Street, in order to see its method. When this co-operation of male nurses was first started, we hoped it would soon be self-supporting as well managed women nurses' co-operations are. It is, therefore, satisfactory to note that the staff now numbers 38, and that the fees paid to the men, which were only £500 the first year, have in the second year's work risen to £1,800, and that the element of charity in its management is no longer required.

Mr. Haldane and his colleagues at the War Office are specially sympathetic towards the scheme, as they consider the knowledge that such a co-operation exists is an incentive to men in the Services to attain a high standard of proficiency in their nursing duties, under the highly-qualified Sisters of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

We regret that the London County Council Education Committee failed to accede to the recommendation of the Day Schools Sub-Committee that the Birley House Open-Air Schools be continued two months longer until December 31st. To objections made, Mr. Hobson said that it was the general opinion that children attending an open-air school on the Yorkshire moors derived great benefit from their sojourn there, and surely what was done on a bleak Yorkshire moor could be done in the neighbourhood of London.

Much better get children out of stuffy schoolrooms into the open all the year round, if possible.

The proposal to hold a Conference on Hospital Diet for nurses would arouse great interest. There are still many institutions where the food is not of good quality, well cooked, or nicely served, and with all the modern culinary appliances surely it would be possible to perfect these domestic matters. In France they are far ahead of us so far as cooking and serving is concerned, and some day, no doubt, when Matrons are trained for their duties, and not pitchforked into places of responsibility by whim and favour, a course of domestic management, including a knowledge of food values, will be required of them before they graduate, as Home Sisters and Housekeepers.

Dr. Hindshaw, the Medical Superintendent at the Hope Hospital, Salford, seems

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