

Nursing Echoes.



The first meeting of the Imperial Memorial to the late Miss Florence Nightingale, O.M., will take place at Grosvenor House, by permission of the Duke of Westminster, at 3 p.m. on Friday, October 28th. Admission will be by invitation, but application for cards should be addressed to the hon. sec., Florence Nightingale Memorial, 47b, Welbeck Street, Cavendish Square, W. This does not necessarily exclude a nurses' memorial.

A very useful course of lectures, specially organised in the interests of women desirous of qualifying as School Nurses or Health Visitors by the Royal Institute of Public Health, 37, Russell Square, W.C., will commence on Tuesday, October 18th, at 7 p.m., of which full particulars may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Dr. James Cantlie, at the above address. An examination will be held at the conclusion of the course, and certificates granted to successful candidates. As the certificate of the Institute is recognised by the Local Government Board in connection with appointments as Health Visitors made under its authority its importance to those desirous of obtaining such appointments is evident.

Amongst the proposals for a memorial to the late King, Mr. Charles E. Newbon, a leading liveryman of the City of London, has addressed a suggestion to the Lord Mayor for the establishment of a hospital or hostel for the middle classes. Mr. Newbon states that "an undoubted need exists for such an institution, and its provision was favoured by his Majesty a short time before his lamented death." The method of bringing skilled nursing within the reach of the middle classes is an urgent problem. At present it is certain that the poor are far better provided for.

The Chairman of the London Hospital lays down the law concerning the training of nurses in the *London Hospital Gazette*, but does little to disabuse the minds of just persons of their conviction that with short term training the London Hospital undersells the three years' certificate nurse, a breach of honourable dealing with the nursing profession, which would not be tolerated in any legally constituted profession of men or well-organised trade.

We are glad to know that recent criticisms

have urged the London Hospital Committee to make enquiries concerning the private nursing business for which they are responsible. Mr. Holland accuses the trained nurses, who object to the unfair competition of short term training of "making capital out of attacking our training school." We may remind him and his very astute committee that after they have subtracted 100 per cent. on their private nurses' earnings capital is at vanishing point.

Mr. Holland concludes:—"If I were not too full of the Harrogate sulphur water to smile at anything I could smile at the noisy screechings of those who are jealous of our success." Surely that private nursing balance sheet, with its cosy little surplus of £9,500, has power to tickle his risible faculties? Especially as nurses are now being invited to find the funds to build themselves an almshouse to which to retire in their impoverished old age.

The nursing staff of the General Infirmary, Leeds, are to be congratulated on the presence of mind and good discipline they displayed on the morning of Oct. 7th, when a fire broke out in the wing containing the children's ward, the roof of which fell in and was completely destroyed.

At seven o'clock a fireman appeared in the children's ward, containing thirty cots, and quietly communicated to a nurse on duty that the roof was ablaze and the ward must be cleared. Quickly more nurses entered the ward and set about the work of removal, and in reply to the inquiry of an older child as to what was the matter, a nurse replied with a smile, "You are all going to another ward." With the utmost celerity and confidence they carried out the work, in which porters, maids, dressers, and doctors assisted, under the burning roof which they knew to be a mass of flames, the same work of rescue being carried on simultaneously in other wards. The hissing of water, and crackling of old beams warned them to redouble their efforts, and the outer roof had fallen in and flames were shooting down through the ceiling as the nurses carried out the last little patient with the calmness which characterised their work throughout, and the brief notice affixed to the gate of the Infirmary, "All patients are safe," was testimony to the fact that those tried in the ordeal had not been found wanting.

The incident makes little stir. The public have confidence that nurses will do their duty, and the nurses would be the first to own that they did no more. But let the public consider what the work of rescue implied. Not

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)