

The proposition that the Borough of Hastings District Nursing Association should augment its income by sending out nurses to private cases is rightly objected to by Dr. Holcroft, who states that the Association is starting a "cheap nursing supply company." If, as it is stated, "there is a grave fear of the Association ceasing to exist, for it is an open secret that its liabilities are heavy and its assets practically nil, and that it has little or no money to continue its work," then it should wind up its affairs, and not attempt to finance its work amongst the poor by sweating its nurses for this purpose. The exploitation of nursing labour under the guise of charity is a very sinister phase of the nursing question. It is growing to such proportions that it is proposed later in the year to hold a conference on "Nursing Economics," when this and kindred questions can be discussed. It is time the public understood that it is not charity to finance the nursing of the poor out of the earnings of working women.

The Bakewell Guardians have decided, subject to the consent of the Local Government Board to defray out of the common fund of the Union such portion of the legal expenses incurred by Miss Lizzie Smith in defending the action recently brought against her by Mr. W. E. Ponsford, late Workhouse Master, as may be decided upon by the Board. The circumstances of the case will be within the memory of our readers. Mr. Nixon, in supporting the resolution, said the nurse had discharged a public duty against terrible odds—discharged that duty against the risk and danger of being condemned in the eyes of every decent man and woman. Had she failed she would have been cast out of society. She ran the risk of absolutely beggaring herself, and she stood between the Board and a great danger.

The Coventry Guardians, who propose to build a new home for their nurses, have adopted the wise course of appointing a Sub-Committee to visit the homes attached to other infirmaries to gain a practical knowledge of the best arrangements, as they believe that they will save expense by so doing, and that this would therefore be the most economical course in the end.

The Edinburgh Medical Practitioners' Association propose to start a nursing home of 50 beds to be available at fees of from one to three guineas, for which it is estimated that £10,000 will be required, which the public are to be asked to contribute. The medical profession has intimated its willingness to contribute £800 to the initial expenses.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The King has been pleased to become Patron of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. His Majesty has, on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor, the Prime Minister, and the Governor of the Bank of England, in accordance with the Act of Parliament, appointed as Governors of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London the following: The Duke of Teck, Viscount Iveagh, and the Speaker of the House of Commons.

The King, Sovereign head and patron of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, has become the patron of the British Ophthalmic Hospital at Jerusalem (belonging to the Order), in succession to King Edward VII. His Majesty has also become patron of Guy's Hospital, and of the British Red Cross Society, the King and Queen have become patrons of the Brompton Hospital for Consumption, and the Queen is graciously pleased to become Patron of the Chelsea Hospital for Women.

Prince Francis of Teck appears to be a model Chairman for the Middlesex Hospital. His Serene Highness has asked for £20,000, and the public seems inclined to let him have it. The Prince visits the wards and out-patient department, and is acquainting himself with every detail of management. There is now no use for chairmen and governors of hospitals who do not know the difference between medical and nursing qualifications, and how important it is for the patients that in both professions they should be the highest obtainable.

The Conference of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other forms of Tuberculosis, which was opened in Edinburgh on Friday last week, has been extremely interesting. Full reports have appeared in the *Scotsman* and the *Glasgow Herald* to which we direct the attention of our readers.

The St. John Ambulance Association has issued details of a scheme for organising ambulance county companies for aid to the sick and wounded of the Territorial Force in time of war. Two classes of local bodies are to be constituted. These will be called the St. John Ambulance Brigade Companies, to be formed under brigade orders, and the St. John Ambulance County Companies, which will be formed by the Territorial branch of the association. Both will be under the ambulance department of the Order, and in case of war in this country their services will be offered to the War Office. The members of a county company must be either registered medical practitioners, pharmacists, trained nurses, or persons who have obtained a St. John Ambulance Association certificate in first aid as regards men, and in first aid and home nursing as regards women. All officers and members of companies, both men and women, will enter into an obligation to serve in their own county with the Territorial Force in case of war.

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