

## Nursing Echoes.



The proposal to convene a great Social Reunion of Registrationists early in February, in support of the Nurses' Registration Bill is arousing much interest amongst societies of nurses in favour of organised education. Nothing can be arranged for a few weeks, but the splendid suite of Connaught Rooms in Old Queen Street, Kingsway, W.C., have been secured for the evening of February 2nd. It is hoped to have quite an original gathering; indeed, why should we not have the pleasure of meeting some of those devoted pioneers of past centuries who did their part so heroically in the evolution of modern nursing. Indeed, there are quite a number of clever and delightful people with whom we should like to shake hands, whose devoted services to humanity take us back to prehistoric times. Why should we not meet Beautiful Hygeia, Goddess of Health, and the attendant elements, Earth, Air, Fire, and Water, a sufficiency of which we recognise in these days of social reform as necessary for the maintenance of physical fitness? A Pageant of the Evolution of Scientific Nursing has wonderful possibilities. We wonder if the modern nurse has the *esprit* to organise it.

At the Guildhall Mr. H. Dixon Kimber, the Chairman of the Special Committee appointed by the Corporation to receive and entertain the delegates attending the International Law Associated Conference, was last week presented by his colleagues with a pair of Crown Derby vases in recognition of his services. Mr. Kimber is rapidly becoming known as the nurses' legal champion. He saved Nurse Bellamy from outrageous injustice in the Hemel Hempstead Infirmary case, and all "Bart's" nurses owe him a hearty vote of thanks for his support during their recent protest against the depreciation of their three years' certificate.

A writer in the *Liverpool Courier* suggests that part of the memorial to Florence Nightingale should take the form of the augmentation of the nursing staffs in the Liverpool hospitals, and asserts that in one of the most important hospitals in Liverpool the nurses work incessantly from seven in the morning till nine at night, with two hours off duty (frequently curtailed), with a whole day once a month, five

hours free once a fortnight, and two extra hours once a week.

It seems rather like a reversion to thirty years ago to read that the only desire of many of the nurses in their free time is to sleep (which is against the rules). We well remember in our early nursing days that our first requirement when off duty was a good meal, and the second to sleep almost until it was time to return again to the hospital.

The finance of County Nursing Associations is sometimes misleading, for instance, take the balance sheet of the Cumberland Nursing Association. With a staff of fifty-one nurses now at work in the county, only ten are thoroughly trained women holding a three years' certificate of training, and nine months' district training. These nurses cost from £90 to £100 a year. Eight of the staff have more or less hospital experience, and the 33 village nurses, with a few months' training at Plaistow or Govan, are estimated to cost £50 to £55 per annum. The fact that each one of these workers costs the Association £48 to £50 for their very limited and insufficient training is apparently lost sight of. We presume they are bound for a term of three years' service after training, so if £16 per annum is added to the £50, though ill-paid, village nurses are not as cheap as at first appears.

Dr. Core recently presided at a meeting at Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, where a Nurses' Temperance Union is being formed, when an interesting and impressive address was given by Dr. W. S. Reid. Dr. Reid pointed out to the nurses that a cup of hot soup or milk would do more for them when tired and overworked than any amount of alcohol.

The Chairman, in thanking Dr. Reid for his address, mentioned that those of his college friends who had been most successful in the world had been total abstainers.

We learn from *La Garde Malade Hospitalière* that the pupils of the Nursing School of the Tondu Hospital, Bordeaux, recently had the honour of being presented to the President of the Republic. M. Fallières warmly congratulated Dr. Lande, Vice-President of the Administrative Committee of Hospitals, and founder of the School, and said to the pupil nurses that they had earned general respect and gratitude. At the request of Mlle. Irasque, the Assistant Directrice of the Hospital, the President signed his name in the golden book of the School, which contains many illustrious names. In the military hospital which he visited on the same day M. Fallières saw sub-

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