

### Nursing Echoes.



To one and all of our readers this Journal carries our best wishes for a Happy New Year, and our cordial thanks for all the kind wishes and remembrances which have reached us at this season. At the present moment the senders will understand that, with the organisation of the Nursing Pageant, added to the weekly recurring work of bringing out this journal, we have not time to write individual acknowledgments, as we should like to do, but our thanks are none the less sincere because they are conveyed collectively through the journal.

Sir Everard Hambro, Chairman of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, has informed Queen Alexandra, President of the Fund, that 2,900 nurses have subscribed £1,700 towards the King Edward VII. Memorial Homes for Nurses, and that other sums have been received amounting to £5,800. Queen Alexandra, who has intimated that she is much touched by the way in which the nurses have come forward has sent a donation of £100 to the Fund.

In Scotland it is hoped to raise sufficient funds to have one of the Homes located north of the Tweed, and five centres for collecting have been arranged and donations can be sent to any of the following Matrons:—*Edinburgh*, Miss Gill, Royal Infirmary; *Glasgow*, Miss Melrose, Royal Infirmary, and Miss Gregory Smith, Western Infirmary; *Aberdeen*, Miss Tattam, Royal Hospital for Sick Children; *Inverness*, Miss Philp, Northern Infirmary. Cheques should be made out to the credit of "King Edward VII. Nurses' Memorial (Scottish Branch)."

Miss Bullock and the Nursing Staff of the South London Nursing Institution were recently "At Home" at St. Matthew's Hall, Battersea, to some 200 friends and subscribers of the institution. After tea there were speeches and music, when Canon Erskine Clarke occupied the chair. Mr. Faber, M.P., warned the Association that it was better to curtail work, than to draw upon capital which he noticed had been done, as this must end in disaster. He announced a donation of £5 from the late Miss Florence Nightingale.

Father Freeling, on behalf of the Roman Catholic Community, the Rev. A. Bingham representing the Wesleyans, and the Rev. W. J. Carey, Vicar of the Church of the Ascension, all testified to the value of the nurses' work.

From all quarters we hear what delightful entertainments the medical and nursing staffs of hospitals, infirmaries, and nursing institutions have this year arranged for the happiness of the patients, and how greatly the latter have enjoyed them. "We grown-up folks were the biggest babies of the lot over that there Christmas tree," one old lady told us, and "as for plum pudding and cake, it's real wholesome when made of the right stuff. We eat our fill, and wern't a bit the worse; indeed, as I says to my neighbour, if we 'ad been brought up on it, may be we should not have been here." "And I tells her," the aforesaid neighbour chimes in, "then us wouldn't have enjoyed it now—so it's broad as it's long."

The inevitable law of compensation, even where Christmas cheer is concerned!

The Metropolitan Hospital in the Kingsland Road is one which serves a very poor and densely packed neighbourhood, its *clientèle* being estimated at half a million. Naturally therefore the 117 beds it contains are always in demand, while the large provident department which is a special feature of the hospital, has on the books over 4,000 persons who by small payments, made regularly in sickness and health, provide medical relief in time of need.

On Monday, the Annual Entertainment and Christmas tree for the children took place, and very fresh and bright the hospital looked, for not only have many structural improvements been made recently, but it has been renovated throughout.

Tea was served in the nurses' dining room, hospitably dispensed by the Matron, Miss Bennett, the Chairman of the Committee of Management, Mr. C. J. Thomas, being also present. The great attraction was the Children's Ward—now lined throughout with pretty blue tiles—with its great Christmas Tree laden with gifts, which gave huge delight to all the little people and many others besides. Some of the cots in this ward were charming, one, most dainty, had been prepared by loving hands for a baby, which, alas, was still-born. It was subsequently given to the Metropolitan Hospital, and on Monday was occupied by a wee mite who had certainly never before been lapped in such luxury.

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