

Nursing Echoes.



A meeting of the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses was held at the offices, 58, Victoria Street, on Wednesday, 15th inst. The reports from the Executive, Affiliation, Midwives, Nursing, and Finance Committees were received.

It was reported that affiliation had been granted to Nursing Associations at Cooper, Yorks; Dullingham, Cambs; Lees, Lancs; Moulton Paddocks, Cambs; New Cherryhinton, Cambs; Parkgate, Yorks; Soham, Cambs; Gorseinon, Glam; Llandegla, Denbigh; Llangannech, Glam; Llantwit Major, Glam; Pentrevoelas, Denbigh; Pontardulais, Glam; Wick, Glam; Athy Branch of Women's National Health Association, Co. Kildare; Clifden Branch of Women's National Health Association, Co. Galway; Fairymount, Co. Roscommon.

The affiliation of the following Associations, to employ Queen's Nurses in connection with County Nursing Associations, was approved:— Boughton, through the Kent C.N. Association; Canterbury Maternity Charity, through the Kent C.N. Association; Hatch Beauchamp, through the Somerset C.N. Association; Shoreham-by-Sea, through the Sussex C.N. Association.

Reports were announced from the Inspectors on 376 districts, employing 576 nurses, and from the County Superintendents on 46 nurses working under 39 associations.

It was reported that gratuities of £5 each have been made to seventy-seven senior Queen's Nurses from the Queen's Nurses' Benefit Fund, Mr. Edwin Tate's generous gift of £1,000 having made it possible to increase the number of recipients this year.

Some interesting letters from the late Miss Florence Nightingale on health visiting in rural districts have been reprinted by the National League for Physical Education and Improvement, 4, Tavistock Square. These letters, written some twenty years ago, show that Miss Nightingale was even then keenly alive to the necessity for health teaching in rural no less than in urban districts.

Nurses interested in sociological questions should read "Woman and Labour," by Olive Schreiner, the authoress of the classic, "The Story of a South African Farm."

The Irish Nurses' Association has arranged a series of lectures during the spring, the first of which was given at the beautiful new home of the Association at 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, on the evening of Tuesday last, when Dr. Stoney spoke on "Deformities." Mr. Pearson will lecture on "Some Surgical Conditions of the Brain" on March 8th.

Central Poor Law Conference.

The 39th annual Central Poor Law Conference was begun on Tuesday, February 21st, in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall. The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor opened the proceedings at 10.30 precisely, and addressed a few general remarks to a crowded audience.

The President, the Earl of Stradbroke, C.B., C.V.O., then took the chair, and after the report of the Committee was read, delivered an address, in which he pointed out that the drastic reforms suggested for the Poor Law should be treated with elasticity, as measures that would be excellent in the towns would be quite unsuitable for country districts with a wide area to cover.

Casuals practically all came from the towns; they had been increasing fourfold during the last three years, and he saw no sign of abatement.

Mr. H. Beaumont, Clerk to the Wakefield Board of Guardians, then read a paper on "Reforms from within." He said that "Degeneracy must be stopped at its source—that is, covered by the expression 'heredity.'"

Legislate how you will, call the institutions and the works of the guardians by whatever name you like, degenerates will still exist, their difficulties will be the same, and the difficulties of administration will be the same. . . . It was unnecessary to say to that audience that children, whether sick or well, should never be in a workhouse or a workhouse infirmary. They should be sent to Homes where they will not have to associate with adult paupers. . . . It goes without saying that under the Boarding-out Order, the Children Act, etc., the officer to be appointed should be a woman of experience and tact, of a class of education superior to those amongst whom she has to work, and where children are concerned, as unfortunately children must be concerned, in outdoor relief, female relieving officers could with advantage be employed.

The Guardians should also have power to compel their outdoor sick to come into the institution for nursing and treatment, only on the recommendation of the responsible medical officer.

At the risk, he said, of giving some offence, the speaker suggested that the *personnel* of public bodies, including Guardians, has not improved of late years. It was very advisable that the Poor Law should have the services of the best workers and most experienced citizens, but no legislation could secure it.

Mr. Leech, Clerk to the Guardians at Rochdale, opened the discussion. The proceedings were adjourned at noon, and the members of the Conference were then invited to visit the training ship *Ermouth*, where they were entertained by an exhibition of physical drill and exercises by the boys.

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