

Nursing Echoes.



A public meeting is to be held at the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor presiding, on Friday, March 31st, in support of a memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale. The joint committee, formed of representatives of the committees chosen at the meetings held at St. Thomas's Hospital and at Grosvenor House towards the end of last year, of which Lord Crewe has acted as Chairman, have decided that a statue should be erected in London, and that an annuity fund should be established for the relief of destitute nurses.

By the invitation of Lady Pearce Gould, a number of nurses were present at a drawing room meeting at 10, Queen Anne Street, W., on Tuesday last. Tea and coffee were first served, after which Mr. McAdam Eccles took the chair at the meeting, and Miss Dashwood and Miss Wilbraham Taylor explained the aims of the Nurses' Union, which has now 72 branches. It was aptly remarked by the latter speaker that a nurse in a private house has usually either to live up to a reputation or to live one down. The closing address was given by the Rev. Prebendary Webb Peplow. The meeting concluded with votes of thanks to Lady Pearce Gould, the Chairman, and the speakers.

A correspondent writes:—

It was my privilege last week to attend the conference held by the Friends' Social Purity Association. The impression I carried away with me was that we in hospital might do more to aid in the crusade against one of the greatest evils of the day.

There is, I am convinced, a great deal of ignorance prevalent amongst nurses completing their training in regard to specific diseases. Surely this might be overcome if, in a Matron's course of lectures, one at least was devoted to this subject.

I have found Miss Brodrick's article on "Morality in Relation to Health" a great help in teaching nurses; it is so clearly and simply written.

In children's hospitals and convalescent homes too much stress cannot be laid on the importance of a nurse thoroughly understanding how to detect and deal with a child addicted to bad habits.

Few people have better chances of turning such knowledge to good account as nurses, so let that knowledge be given in a plain and straightforward way, and not lightly passed over.

We fully endorse the views of our correspondent. In the past many nurses have passed

through their training, and gained their certificates without having received any instruction on the above subject.

At a meeting of the Council of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, re-appointed by Queen Alexandra for the ensuing three years, held at 58, Victoria Street, Lord Goschen presided, and others present included Lord Aberdare, Sir Dyce Duckworth, Mr. Ernest von Glehn, Mr. Edmund Owen, LL.D., F.R.C.S., Dr. Arthur Shadwell, Viscount St. Aldwyn, the Hon. Mrs. C. A. Egerton, and Lady Dimsdale. Mr. Harold Boulton was re-appointed hon. treasurer, and Mr. W. G. Rathbone, Mr. D. F. Pennant, and Mrs. George Byron were re-elected hon. secretaries for the ensuing year.

Miss Amy Hughes, General Superintendent Q.V.J.I., has been speaking in various places of the work of district nurses in Australasia and Canada. In an address given at Exeter Castle to the members of the Devonshire Nursing Association she remarked that they were passing through a process of evolution and alteration. Up to a few years ago it was comparatively easy to have a district nurse. There was the fully-trained hospital woman, and there was the village nurse working on certain established lines, but now the whole thing practically had come within the scope of legislation. The direction and scope of the work had been altered by the operation of such Acts as the Midwives Act and the Act providing for the medical inspection of school children. Her experience of Australia and Canada had shown her that it was necessary for district nurses to be, as Florence Nightingale said they should be, "health visitors," teaching people the plain and simple principles of hygiene. They should use their influence with the mothers, and do what could be done in the interests of the children, so that young lives could be given a fair start, and a strong, healthy race be assured.

When State Registration is in force no doubt a district nurses' curriculum will be defined to which all those accepting the great responsibility of teaching others the hygienic law will themselves have to attain. Unfortunately this is not now the case.

The Liverpool Queen Victoria District Nursing Association, which held its annual meeting, over which the Lord Mayor presided, last week, and has a staff of 6 Matrons and 62 nurses, is doing admirable work for the sick

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)