

Nursing Echoes.



The Lady Helen Munro Ferguson has consented to give an address at the Mansion House at the next meeting of the Grand Committee of the Territorial Force Nursing Service of the City and County of London, on "The Red Cross Scheme for Voluntary Aid." This meeting will take place on May 17th, at 3.30 p.m.

The twenty-first annual report of the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses to her Majesty Queen Alexandra, states that the number of Nursing Associations in affiliation with the Institute employing Queen's Nurses on December 31st, 1910, were in England 505, in Scotland 217, in Ireland 120, and in Wales 105. The total number of Queen's Nurses at work on the same date were 1,795, and, in addition, 65 became Queen's Nurses on January 1st, 1911, making a total of 1860.

The income of the Queen's Fund—the National Subscription for the maintenance of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, including contributions from Queen Alexandra's Committee, is estimated at about £4,000 per annum, but the further sum of £2,500 is needed annually, and must be raised unless the Institute is to give up a great deal of its valuable work.

Might not something be done on the lines of the Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago, which, out of a staff of 61 nurses, has 5 endowed, and 21 supported by special subscription?

The new number of the *Queen's Nurses' Magazine*, which makes its first appearance as the official organ of the Q.V.J.I., contains an interesting picture of the Queen's Superintendents and Inspectors of the Southern Counties, taken at the Conference held on April 5th.

An article by a Health Lecturer who, as a suffragette prisoner, has known Holloway from the inside, is also very instructive. The writer emphasises the fact that vitality and "physical tone" are lowered by the bad ventilation and confined "exercise" of Holloway, and probably things are far worse in less

up-to-date prisons. She continues: "I shall never again blame anyone for becoming abominably drunk the day they first leave gaol. Family, tradition, and natural inclination kept me from turning to alcohol, but I found the stimulation I needed in many cups of black coffee—not small ones, large ones drunk greedily one after another, and for over a week this craving for coffee never seemed satisfied."

The writer says further: "Nurses not infrequently leave hospital to become wardresses; they say the hours are shorter, and possibly the remuneration is better. It would not be hard to earn more than our ill-paid hospital nurses earn, but to me the Holloway wardresses looked far more tired and worn-out than the staff nurses and probationers of even the big London hospitals. They were too well trained or too loyal to complain to prisoners, but before I was a prisoner I had known women who worked in gaols, and I can only say that any 'prison reform' which leaves out the warder or wardress is a very imperfect reform."

On May 15th the annual meeting of the Church of England Temperance Society (Central Women's Union) will be held at Caxton Hall, at 2.30 p.m. The Union has communicated with many Matrons of hospitals urging them to interest their nurses in this important work and to attend the meeting. Dr. May Thorne and Dr. Frances Morrell will speak, and there is no doubt trained nurses could bring enormous influence for good in discouraging the use of alcohol when other stimulants would do as well. Ether, ammonia, sal volatile, and strong coffee might well be used instead of brandy, wine, and liqueurs.

A successful meeting of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association was held on April 29th, at Fulham Infirmary, Miss Ballantyne, the Matron, occupied the chair. Members had sent in questions previously, and these were discussed by many of those who were present. Amongst the questions discussed were "Is it advisable to promote our own nursing staff or not?" "Should nurses be kept on to make up any time they have been off duty through illness?" "Should the nursing staff who contract infectious illness during their work be compensated for expenses such as an enforced holiday that this entails?" Other suggestions were made including a central examination in sick cooking, prizes at the ordinary examinations, etc.

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