

forward and form independent branches, until eventually the whole of London is covered.

Three meetings have already been planned for the current year; the first two will be held at Aubrey House, Kensington, on May 29th and July 19th, and will be joint ones. Miss Hughes has kindly promised to give an address on her visit to Australia on May 29th. Later in the year a visit to the Royal College of Surgeons, and to one of the large London hospitals, has been planned. Those desiring membership or further information about the Union should apply to Miss Egestorff, Holt House, Bancroft Road, E.

A pioneer step was taken in Liverpool when the West Derby Guardians, at their meeting last week, approved of the action of the Committee of the Mill Road Infirmary in recommending the appointment of six additional probationers, to enable eight hours per day to be arranged for nurses engaged in the phthisical ward at the Infirmary. The Rev. J. N. Baker, Chairman of the Committee, said they would all agree that continuous nursing in these wards was injurious to the nurses engaged there, and also to the detriment of the patients themselves. This is indeed a step in the right direction, which the authorities of every hospital providing for the care of phthisical patients should quickly emulate.

Both the National Associations of Nurses, the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, and the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States, hold their annual Conventions in Boston, U.S.A., from May 29th to 31st. A most interesting programme has been arranged, questions of vital importance are to be discussed, and many social functions are arranged. The Presidents of the two Societies, Miss M. Riddle, of Newton Hospital, Mass., and Miss Jane A. Delano, R.N., Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps, and Chairman of the National Commission of the Red Cross Nursing Service, are women of extraordinary ability, who have done first class service for the profession they adorn.

Boston is a most attractive centre for such gatherings, with its splendid Museum of Fine Arts, its magnificent Public Library, Harvard University, its marvellous Botanical Gardens, and Hospitals and Nursing Homes second to none in the United States of America. What happy days we passed there just ten years ago! Would that it were possible to attend the forthcoming inspiring Convention, but that cannot be, and we must look forward to meeting our American friends at Cologne next year.

## Reflections.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The Duke of Norfolk has offered to give to Sheffield five acres of land in one of the suburbs as a site for the cripples' home which it is proposed to erect as a Memorial to King Edward. The Sheffield Memorial Fund now amounts to £15,600. The duke's gift is estimated to be worth £800.

The Berkshire County Memorial to King Edward will take the form of a children's ward in the new wing of the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The fund now amounts to over £6,000.

Princess Henry of Battenberg has given her patronage to the Coronation bazaar to be held at the Royal Horticultural Hall, on June 8th and 9th, in aid of the National Blind Relief Society. Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll is President of the Society and herself presides over a stall.

It has been arranged that on Hospital Sunday, June 18th, the Lord Mayor will attend in civic state the morning service at St. Margaret's, Westminster, the afternoon service at St. Paul's Cathedral (when the Judges will also be present), and the evening service at the City Temple.

Donations and subscriptions amounting to about £4,000 were announced at the annual dinner of the French Hospital, at which the French Ambassador presided.

The annual Poor Law Conference of the South-Eastern and Metropolitan Divisions is to be held this year at Portsmouth on June 8th and 9th.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. H. Ward, pleaded at the annual meeting of the National Federation of Christian Workers Among Poor Children for a National Bureau for Children, which could investigate the prevention of infant and child mortality. The matter of heredity would have to be tackled sooner or later.

The medical press, and also many of the dailies, are pointing out the disastrous effect which the National Insurance Bill will have upon the status and quality of medical practice, if passed in its present crude form. "Fancy," exclaims one doctor, "treating a bad case of syphilis for twelve months for 4s.!" Surely this is sweating *in excelsis*. The Bill smashes up the independent work of general practice, and thus cuts at the root of progressive medicine. "We can't all be 100 guinea specialists right away," another doctor remarks.

The scheme can only succeed with the co-operation of the whole medical profession, as Dr. A. G. Bateman, General Secretary of the Medical Defence Union, points out, and he is of opinion that "the Government will not be able to find 10,000 'blacklegs' in the profession." Midwives are placed in an equally hopeless position, as for

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