

Nursing Echoes.



All the seats are now taken at the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING table at the Coronation Dinner of the Society of Women Journalists, on June 20th.

The *Local Government Chronicle* has evidently a liking for the "born nurse," who seems so attractive a personality to many who

have never had occasion to need her services. It states: "We are far from admitting that because a woman is registered as a trained nurse, or because she has obtained a certificate, she is necessarily better than another woman who has not gone through these formalities." It then discusses the Nurses' Registration Bill at some length.

Our contemporary may learn by bitter experience that the "formalities" to which it attaches so little importance are matters in which life and death are concerned, and which weigh down the balance in favour of life.

In the current report of the Nurse Training School at St. Thomas's Hospital, the Matron, Miss Hamilton, gives an account of the preliminary course, which was instituted last year. In the first eight months fifty candidates were admitted, and each seven weeks' course, in which the pupils were instructed in elementary hygiene, anatomy, and physiology, and in bed making, bandaging, splint padding, and the elements of sick cookery, examinations were held by Miss Lloyd Still, Matron of Middlesex Hospital, who was trained at St. Thomas's, and Dr. Turney. Forty of the pupils passed into training in the hospital.

Lady Faudel-Phillips, accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Henriques, opened the sale of work in aid of the Shoreditch and Bethnal Green District Nursing Association last week, and Lady Alington and Viscountess Crichton sent gifts of butter and flowers. On the second day it was opened by Lady Gwendolen Guinness.

The new Matron of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, Southampton, Miss Harradine, has now assumed office, and Miss Mollett, with many expressions of good will for her future happiness, has taken up her residence at Rose Cottage, Three Cross, Wimborne.

At the annual meeting of the Norwich District Nursing Association, at which the Lord

Mayor of Norwich, Mr. Eustace Gurney, presided, the Dean, Dr. Russell Wakefield, said that the District Nursing Association would live and must live as a real blessing and benefit to that place. He was sorry to suggest that the Association should recognise anything in the shape of sweating, but he noticed that the Howlett nurse worked in a number of parishes the population of which was about 20,000. He did not know how far she was assisted in her work, but he would be glad to see a larger number of nurses employed. As to the importance of this work of nursing in the homes of the poor, it was too late in the day for it to be necessary to say anything in its favour. Doctors had told him that one of the cruellest things they ever had to recommend was careful nursing and management, when they knew it was perfectly impossible to secure what they were recommending. Then latent health troubles were often discovered by the nurses and placed in the hands of skilled people to deal with, and he himself in his own parish had often got into touch with people who otherwise he would have had no opportunity of knowing except through the district nurses. He was their debtor.

Dr. Burton Fanning, in seconding, expressed his profound admiration for the work of the district nurses, which was most valuable, particularly in taking observations in cases of consumption. For himself, if he were ill, and could not have both doctor and nurse, he would very much rather have the nurse.

We hear on all sides of the difficulty of procuring good nurses in country infirmaries. The difficulties are apparent from a recent report of the Easington (Durham) Board of Guardians, when the Clerk, Mr. J. M. Longden, reported that in response to an advertisement for an assistant nurse at the Workhouse, in several papers, only one reply had been received. The candidate, Miss Jane Bateman, had been night nurse at the Longrove Asylum in Surrey for three years, but belonged to South Helton, in the Union, and desired to be nearer home. Her testimonials were highly satisfactory, but the only certificate she held was one for ambulance work, and the Board had advertised for a nurse with a certificate of training at a salary of £30.

It was pointed out that the Board could not appoint an unqualified nurse at £30 a year when a qualified one was already in their employ at £25. The Clerk said that the cost of advertising for another month would be from £5 to £6. The resolution requiring a certificated nurse was formally rescinded, and

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