

Nursing Echoes.



A meeting of the City of London Branch of the British Red Cross Society was held at the Mansion House last week. The Lady Mayoress presided. The Committee decided to make arrangements for lectures on nursing for those who had passed their first-aid examinations. Lady Mackinnon said that gratifying progress was being made in the classes started at the Prudential Assurance Company's establishment at Holborn Bars, where some hundreds of male and female members of the staff were under tuition, and four complete detachments had already been constituted in that one establishment alone. Other City firms and institutions were about to join in the movement. Colonel Harrison, Colonel Broome-Giles, Miss Hoadley, and Miss H. L. Pearse were appointed a sub-committee to make preparations for the nursing tuition and examinations, and a committee of ladies was formed to select a suitable uniform for the detachments while under training.

During the Christmas vacation Miss M. S. Rundle, the Isla Stewart Scholar at Teachers' College, New York, and she seems to have been greatly impressed with the educational facilities afforded to the probationers. As the guest of Miss Maxwell, whose strong and charming personality impressed European nurses so deeply at our Paris and London International Meetings, Miss Rundle has come into intimate touch with the daily routine of a first-class American Training School for Nurses. She writes, in sending New Year's greetings:—"It is sweet to hear Miss Isla Stewart spoken of, and it is all because of that name that I am receiving so much kindness. I am indeed fortunate to be a visitor in one of the best hospitals in the United States. The Presbyterian is a beautiful hospital, and the equipment of the Training School, called the Florence Nightingale Hall, is perfect.

"It appears to me that the first consideration of the authorities must be the education of the nurse, and all the methods and routine are directed to that aim. The curriculum covers so many subjects, and all details as to time required for each are carefully worked out. There is a beautiful laboratory in the Hall, where the nurses are taught domestic science

by the resident dietitian, a study on each floor, and, of course, a library. A nurse holds the position of anæsthetist for all the operations. The surgeons prefer a nurse to hold that position, and she is especially qualified for it. . . . In two weeks the mid-year exams. begin at Teachers' College. Half the time nearly gone—it is passing so quickly."

The scheme for forming an Irish Nurses' Co-operative Hostel Company, Ltd., which, suggested by Miss Huxley, is being furthered by the Irish Matrons' Association, promises to be a great success. The Association suggests that after making due provision for the necessary out-going expenses nurses working on the Co-operation would share with them any surplus income, profits, or revenue made on rent of rooms, surplus on board and lodging, percentage on nurses' earnings, etc.

The idea is being well supported by the members of the Irish Nurses' Association, who are much interested in it, and are taking up the shares necessary to provide the capital for launching it, which are being issued at £1 each. A house has been secured in which it is hoped to provide suitable rooms as a residence for nurses, and large rooms for the Irish Nurses' and Irish Matrons' Associations, with lecture and class-rooms. We wish the enterprise all success.

Notwithstanding the changes which have taken place at the Ruchill and Belvidere Hospitals, Glasgow, there still seems to be dissatisfaction amongst the members of the nursing staff, and a controversy regarding the disciplinary regulations for the nurses has been going on in the *Evening Citizen*. Discipline must be maintained, but those who frame regulations should recollect that nurses are grown-up women, exercising a responsible profession, and should not be governed through rules which would be more suited to a Dame's School; and to stop the leave of nurses on half days for unpunctuality is to deprive them of the fresh air needful to the preservation of their health.

The proposition to reduce the working hours of nurses in hospitals in New South Wales from twelve to eight hours is regarded with some alarm by hospital authorities, who realise that it will mean the increase of their nursing staff by about one-third, and the addition of new wings to many nursing homes. The demand for an eight hours' day, it should be noted, does not come from the nurses, who realise the difficulties of its enforcement, but the

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