

NURSES AND THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BILL.

LEICESTER INFIRMARY NURSES' LEAGUE.

At the Autumn Meeting of the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, Mr. D. F. Pennant, Hon. Secretary of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, will speak on "The National Insurance Bill as it affects Nurses."

Mr. C. J. Bond, Senior Surgeon of the Infirmary, will take the chair.

HENDON BRANCH OF THE CENTRAL LONDON SICK ASYLUM NURSES' LEAGUE.

At a meeting held at the Hendon Infirmary on the 24th inst., Miss Mollett gave a brilliant address on the National Insurance Bill, at which the following resolutions were adopted:

- (1) That a Nurses' Friendly Society shall be formed to comply with the demands of the National Insurance Bill, and to protect and safeguard the interests of nurses, such Society to be self-governing.
- (2) That women should be represented on the Insurance Commission, the Advisory Board, and on the Local Health Committees, and that it is specially desirable that nurses should be on the Health Committees.
- (3) That Clause 17 be so amended as to read: "That none but fully trained and certificated nurses be employed under the National Insurance Bill, and that Parliament define what is a fully trained and certificated nurse."

ST. JOHN'S HOUSE NURSES' LEAGUE.

At a meeting of the St. John's House Nurses' League, held at the House on the 26th inst., the formation of an Approved Society for Nurses under the National Insurance Bill was discussed.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE.

A Course of six Lectures on "The Cathedrals of England," will be given by Mr. Allen S. Walker, Lecturer to the Historic London Club, in the Anatomical Theatre, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on Tuesdays, at 8 p.m., commencing on October 31st. Members' tickets, 2s. 6d.; non-members, 5s. Admission to single lectures, 1s.

Oct. 31st.—The Rise of the English Cathedrals.

Nov. 7th.—Canterbury, Rochester, Chichester.

Nov. 14th.—Winchester, Salisbury.

Nov. 21st.—Lecture this week omitted.

Nov. 28th.—York, Lincoln, Durham.

Dec. 5th.—Norwich, Ely, Lichfield, Gloucester.

Dec. 12th.—Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's.

The Lectures will be illustrated by Lantern Views.

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein will open the twenty-second Cookery and Food Exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday, the 31st inst.

The Duke of Westminster has given £3,000 towards the renovation and extension of the Chester Infirmary.

Mary Countess of Ilchester presided at the West London Hospital on Thursday last week at the seventh annual meeting of the Ladies' Association, of which Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll is president. Miss Letts, the hon. secretary, said Queen Alexandra had forwarded £100, saying she was much touched by the contents of a booklet written by Mr. Stephen Paget on the work. The report was adopted on the proposition of Dr. Drewitt, who pointed out that during the last seven years £964 had been collected by Lady Ilchester for the funds of the association, and over £1,000 had been spent by the committee on their chief object, that of sending convalescent patients to homes. A sum of £960 had been handed over to the board of management for casualty ward and new nurses' quarters, and £450 put by as a reserve fund.

Miss Lena Ashwell (Mrs. Simson) made a very touching appeal. She said that few people realised how poorly clad were the patients who attended the hospital, and it was terrible that for need of money absolutely necessary things had to be waited for so long. The nurses' quarters were very deficient, and it was sad that nurses should be housed in dark, small, or fireless rooms. If people would open their hearts and desire that the hospital should be improved, they could by a little love or money render unto God the things that were God's.

The Report of the Asylums' Committee of the L.C.C. gives very disquieting cause for thought. It has been brought to the notice of the Committee that a female patient, who was admitted to Colney Hatch Asylum on September 13th, 1911, aged 67 years, has been a patient in the same asylum on 15 previous occasions; and has also been in other asylums on 11 occasions—26 times in all. She was married at 18 years of age, and has had 13 children, five of whom are dead. Her first attack of insanity was at the age of 21, when her first child was born. The patient's children are said to be all healthy, with the exception of two, who have recently shown signs of insanity, but who are still at home. She has two aunts in asylums, and two of her sisters have suffered from insanity, one having died in Colney Hatch Asylum some years ago, and the other having committed suicide by hanging. The Committee submitted

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