

Nursing Echoes.



The Royal Free Hospital, W.C., looked very gay on the 6th of July, when Princess Christian attended the Coronation Fête given to the patients. A number of nurses were drawn up in line in the Quadrangle, which was decorated with flags, and the Hungarian band performed delightfully. Her Royal Highness, with Princess

Marie Louise, President of the Ladies' Association, visited the various wards and presented Coronation mugs as souvenirs of the occasion to the patients. During the afternoon the Princess, as President, signed and sent on behalf of the patients a telegram to the King and Queen, conveying respectful and loyal congratulations and good wishes for their future happiness. She later took tea in the Matron's (Miss Cox-Davies) sitting-room, and expressed her pleasure at the arrangements which had been made for the enjoyment of the patients.

A delightful "At-Home" was given by Miss Amy Downey at the Residential Home for Nurses, 44, Norfolk Sq., W., on Monday last, on the first anniversary of its opening. The spacious drawing-room looked its best, with graceful Mary lilies, great masses of lupins, and beautiful pale pink roses against the effective background of a soft blue paper. The long French windows opened on to a shaded balcony set with inviting chairs and tables, and, in a convenient corner near by, Mme. Nita was busy giving demonstrations of her skill in palmistry to the many visitors who consulted her. A gramophone made merry music, and the many guests were evidently happy at having an opportunity of visiting the Home, which has proved for so many a real haven of rest and refreshment between their cases, for Miss Downey makes the house a home not only in name but in deed, and is a most charming hostess, as well as expert housekeeper. It is small wonder, therefore, that the house is always full, and applications for admission have to be refused.

As we go to press Lady Truscott is entertaining the Territorial Force Nursing Service of the City and County of London at the gardens of the Royal Botanic Society. The Lady Mayoress will be welcomed at 5 o'clock, and with so genial a hostess the guests are sure of a delightful time.

At a recent meeting of the Bethnal Green Board of Guardians, at which the Chairman, Miss M. E. E. James, presided, the Infirmary Committee reported having received from a sub-committee a report in regard to illness among the nursing staff and the necessity of granting them extra leave. A scheme has been drawn up for one day's rest per week for each nurse, and this would necessitate the appointment of eleven additional probationer nurses, costing approximately £440 exclusive of residence. The sub-committee reported that of 39 nurses who had completed one year's training during the year ended July, 1910, no less than 24, or nearly 62 per cent., had been off duty on account of illness some time during the year. Taking the whole of the probationer nurses during the same period the number off duty on account of sickness was 47 out of 70, or more than 67 per cent. The illness among the non-resident staff during the same period was considerably less, and amounted to only 18 per cent. The Clerk reported that this percentage of illness among the nurses as compared with the outdoor staff is altogether disproportionate, and it is certainly far higher than the average. The scheme by which the nurses are granted one day's leave in every seven will have to be sanctioned by the Local Government Board before it can be put into practice.

Lady St. Davids is the energetic Hon. Secretary of the South Wales Nursing Association, and a meeting was held at her house, 3, Richmond Terrace, Whitehall, last week. A badge for the nurses, representing Duty and Mercy going forth to attend the sick, has been specially designed by Mr. Goscombe John, R.A., and it was decided to order the badges for all the Welsh village nurses. We have only one regret in connection with this good work, and that is that the scheme is calculated, like all County Nursing Associations, to create a class of very insufficiently trained nurses for the poor, whose economic condition in the body politic, especially in relation to thoroughly qualified nurses, is unsound and unfair. We claim, and shall continue to do so, that there should be a safe minimum training and standard for all persons attending the sick, rich and poor, defined by professional authority. Owing to the lack of such a disciplinary body the well-meaning laity have covered the country with a net work of semi-trained nurses, because they are cheap, and are creating a class of women workers whose wages and emoluments place them just beyond the pauper line, and whose future is therefore most precarious.

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