

NURSING ECHOES.

The Annual "At Home" of the Nurses' Co-operation (8, New Cavendish Street, W.), to view the Show of the Needlework Guild, will be held at the Nurses' Club, 35, Langham Street, W., on Friday, December 6th, from 3.30 to 5.30. This most useful Guild was founded in 1897 by Miss Theobald and others, to supply warm and useful clothing to needy hospital patients, otherwise unable to obtain garments suitable to their condition after serious illnesses. The Hon. Secretary is Miss Laura Baker, who is glad to receive contributions of work and money at any time. Membership, which is limited to trained nurses, entails the contribution of one garment and sixpence per annum, and Associates—ladies other than nurses—contribute two garments and one shilling per annum.

When we visit a hospital and note poor accommodation for the nursing staff, we at once conclude—here is a committee of men who do not realise the value of the domestic basis of skilled nursing. Nursing is, we know, highly technical, scientific work, but it is founded on the rock of domestic cleanliness and comfort—quite old-fashioned virtues which go to make a home. And all the best and most useful women love a home—even those endowed with genius. We claim, therefore, that nurses who are to come fresh and sane to their ward work should bring with them the happy, homelike atmosphere, which can only be attained and retained when off-duty time is spent in a sphere of beauty and serenity.

Thus the sympathetic up-to-date modern hospital manager, if wise, will realise how all-important an item in the scheme of hospital management is the Nurses' Home.

Last week we had the great pleasure of spending the night in the new Nurses' Home recently built at the Royal Infirmary, Wigan. It is indeed a delightful place, in the construction of which kindly thought as well as great taste has been expended. Each nurse has a charming bedroom, well furnished and prettily decorated. Baths and lavatories abound, and the lecture room and drawing-room can be divided for work and play, or thrown into one fine hall for any special gathering. The Home Sister's room—a most restful and lovely place, specially furnished—was christened at the recent visit of the Matrons' Council. Here the London members were made welcome by Miss Macintyre and Sister Fletcher, and took tea sweetened by many pretty speeches. The

Infirmary stands high, and is surrounded by pretty grounds and open fields, in which the dear animals browse, and give quite a rural air to the institution.

A tour of the wards proved the thorough management of the hospital and high efficiency of the nursing. They were as bright as they were comfortable, the spick-and-span nurses going about their duties with that happy air, without hustle and flurry, which, being interpreted, meant "all these sick people are patients, not cases, and each one, even the babes, are individuals, and must be considered as such."

The training for nurses, both in theory and practice, is excellent, of which the medical staff and matron are very proud. Wigan nurses are well known and highly thought of in the North, and, indeed, go forth and carry their good work far afield.

Miss Macintyre, the Matron, has devoted twenty-three years of her life to building up the high standard of the nursing school, and is to be heartily congratulated upon its assured success.

By kind invitation of Miss Orr, the Matron, a meeting of the Taunton branch of the Nurses' Social Union was held at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital on November 4th. The members of the Yeovil, Minehead, and Bridgewater branches and the West Somerset Midwives' Association were also invited. In spite of the long distances which most guests had to travel, 56 nurses assembled to hear Dr. Annie Cornall lecture on Venereal Diseases. The need of information on the subject had been felt, and gratitude was expressed to the lecturer for the very clear and helpful manner in which she treated the matter.

A warm vote of thanks was passed to Miss Orr, coupled with an expression of deep regret at her approaching departure for New Zealand and the hope that she would be very happy in her new post as Matron of the Auckland Hospital.

Never a week passes that the overwork of Poor Law nurses is not brought to the notice of some Board of Guardians. Miss Peto, P.L.G. at Lowestoft, states that all resigning nurses have 40 to 50 patients to look after, and cannot get through with the work. Some of the male Guardians seem to think that to do away with trained nurses and engage those less efficient might solve the difficulty. No doubt they would be cheaper—and less efficient. But even that is no excuse for overworking them.

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