

NURSING ECHOES.

The Queen has sent, through the Countess of Minto, a donation of £10 to the funds of Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, of which Her Majesty is patron.

The annual meeting of subscribers to the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses took place on the 7th inst. at the offices of the Institute at 58, Victoria Street. In the absence of the Duke of Portland, Chairman of the Fund, who was unavoidably prevented from attending, the Duke of Devonshire, President of the Institute, occupied the chair. Mr. Harold Boulton, the Hon. Treasurer, announced that the result of the dinner given in July last at the Hotel Cecil (the Duke of Portland in the chair) amounted to £2,557 10s. A vote of thanks was passed to the Duke and Duchess of Portland for the trouble they had taken in the matter. Mr. Harold Boulton announced that he was resigning the hon. treasurership of the Institute at an early date, and the Duke of Devonshire read a letter from the Duke of Portland expressing the gratitude of the Committee for the great personal service rendered by Mr. Boulton.

Miss L. L. Dock has sent three sets of the new volumes (3 and 4) of "A History of Nursing" to Mrs. Fenwick for distribution—one for the International Library in London. Of the remaining sets one will be given to the Library of the Irish Nurses' Association, and one to the Nurses' Library of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh—as at present Scottish Nurses have no central office for nursing organization. Moreover Miss Dock greatly appreciated the expert help given in compiling the chapter on Scottish Nursing contributed by Miss A. W. Gill, the Lady Superintendent of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

A bound volume of "Nosokomos" for 1912 has been sent to the International Library by Miss Van Rijn, the Secretary of the Dutch Nurses Association—so the record of good work in Holland, for the benefit of nurses, is presented up to date.

When Miss Elizabeth Holley, the brave asylum nurse, attended at Buckingham Palace to be decorated by the King for gallantry, she wore her professional costume, and was heartily cheered by the crowd which had assembled outside the Palace. The King pinned on the Albert medal awarded to her, and cordially shook her by the hand.

A meeting will be held in the Committee Room of the National Union of Women Workers, Victoria Street, S.W., on Saturday, the 15th inst., at 3 p.m., to discuss the important subject of "Nursing in Rural Workhouses: What can we do to help?" Miss James, P.L.G., will take the chair, and the speakers will be Miss Wilson and Miss Gibson. Discussion is invited. The question presents many difficulties, and needs expert attention.

Sir Henry Burdett had last week in his pseudo-nursing paper one of his savage and insulting attacks upon the Matrons' Council. Periodically he runs amuck at the impertinence of the trained experts who compose this Association, daring to discuss and take action concerning their own affairs! This time, however, he has made himself more ridiculous than usual in attempting to intimidate women who do not care a row of pins for his futile diatribes. He has unearthed a veritable mare's nest! The Matrons' Council, according to "H. B.," has been attempting to form a branch at Liverpool. It has signally failed. The Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary would have none of it. The "stage army" have retired abashed, and so on. Just the same stale old personal abuse which even Sir Henry Burdett should have learnt by this time cannot, and never will, move the Council a hair's-breadth from its policy and principles! As usual, his statements concerning it are false. The Matrons' Council has taken no action whatever in any attempt to form a branch in Liverpool—the Matrons' Council has no branches. It is a National Association, and intends to remain so.

We hear, however, that some of the Matrons in Liverpool have considered the advisability of forming a little society in the town, to meet occasionally for mutual discussion and help, but that so far the suggestion has not proved very successful. This is a pity. Miss Musson has given a very worthy lead in Birmingham in this connection, which the Matrons of the senior hospitals in other large towns would do well to emulate. Splendid isolation of those holding responsible professional positions may produce very undesirable results—a lack of sympathy and a narrow outlook—which the rank and file very naturally resent. In all professions those in high places owe a debt to those not equally fortunate. Let them pay it by using their influence for the uplift of the profession as a whole.

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