

the Earl of Sandwich then made a statement on behalf of the Committee of Management, welcoming the Princess and giving details concerning the new building for out-patients, which it had long been the desire of the committee to erect. The Princess then performed the ceremony of laying the foundation stone.

A pretty scene then followed in the presentation of purses, filled by friends of the hospital, in each instance of the colours of the badges worn by the respective groups, the first by children, whose badge was buttercups and daisies, the purses being white and gold; the next by medical women in academic robes—badge, violets, purses, purple and mauve. Then came medical students—badge, marsh marigolds, purses, black and gold, followed by the Office Staff—badge, apple blossom, purses, green. Most interesting was the group of workers in the hospital wearing wallflowers as their badge, and bringing dark and pale green purses. They were the head porter, with a record of 21 years' service, the night porter 17 years' service, the dispensary porter 31 years' service, the coffee-stall attendant 20 years' service, and two laundry workers with 18 and 15 years' service to their credit.

The last group was composed of twelve members of the nursing staff, wearing badges of forget-me-nots and carrying blue purses.

The total collection—including the purse presented by Master Gerald Garrett, which contained a cheque from Mr. and Mrs. Wharrie for £1,000—was £1,622.

After the ceremony tea was served in the lecture room for the grown ups, while the children were thoughtfully provided for at tables of their own, charmingly decorated with buttercups and feathery gypsophilia.

THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The Nurses' Missionary League has been active this week, and has produced a new and practical feature. Organised by Miss Richardson, an "All-day Working Party" was held at Guy's Hospital last Tuesday. Nurses came from other hospitals in goodly numbers, and during the day many Guy's nurses came in for odd minutes or for their off duty time—all working with such energy as to produce a fine collection of garments, such as bed-jackets, doctors' aprons, and roller bandages—of which 380 were made.

Mrs. Douglas Hooper and Dr. Babington came and spoke of their work in British E. Africa and China respectively, as the nurses worked.

The day was voted an entire success; and the box of most useful articles will be sent off to the Stewart Memorial Hospital, Hing hwa, China, where Dr. and Mrs. Walker, assisted by Nurse Krauss, who are all "Guy's," are missionaries.

THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY CONFERENCE.*

SOCIAL WORK.

On the afternoon of Thursday, April 24th, Miss Amy Hughes, General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, presided, when a series of papers connected with social work were presented.

THE CHILDREN ACT AND ITS INTEREST FOR NURSES.

Miss E. C. Tawney, late Superintendent Health Visitor, Croydon, and Miss F. Penrose Philp, Hon. Secretary, State Children's Aid Association, spoke of the Children Act and its interest for nurses. The former, referring to the inspection of boarded-out children, pointed out that grandparents, uncles and aunts and brothers and sisters receiving infant relatives are exempt from inspection, even if receiving payment, nor are adopted children inspected. Nurses acting as inspectors could do useful work, as unmarried mothers were often very willing to be advised, and anxious for their children to be taken care of. Such mothers welcome the knowledge that an official visitor will inspect the homes where their children are.

Miss Penrose Philp pointed out that the Act depended for good administration on public opinion. There was a danger if legislation were only permissive that things might be worse. The public conscience was always rather somnolent. She stated that when the Act was passed people began to realize the mistake of not including inspection of the single child, and an amendment providing for this was blocked in the House of Commons for ten years. In one case in a house where the children were perfectly neat and clean the visitor was not satisfied that things were right. The woman in charge of them was informed that if there was no improvement her licence would be removed. The result was that all the children but one were put out as single cases at 6d. a head less than the proprietor was receiving for them. Nothing could then be done, and in six months they were all dead.

Referring to the alarming increase of cases of indecent assault on children under sixteen, the speaker considered this was mainly because adequate punishments were not inflicted; property was much more severely protected than persons so injured, and only slight punishments were inflicted when cases came before the courts.

The speaker stated that once when she was in a police court an official suggested that perhaps she would like to go out of court as the case which was coming on was not a very nice one. She did so, only to discover that five or six little girls were in court in connection with a charge of criminal assault. No woman was present.

Another thing was even worse. When an elder girl had to come up in connection with a charge of this kind she had to prepare her evidence with

* Held in London, April, 1913.

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