

NURSING ECHOES.

It is the custom of this journal to include the latest nursing news up to the moment of going to press. As however the Editor and Sub-Editor have both had to leave town early this week for the Dublin Nursing Conference, our readers will understand the reason should any late item of news be omitted, and will look forward to the Conference Number on June 14th.

Our exchanges on the other side of the world are still sending kind messages congratulating THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING on its Silver Jubilee, for which many thanks, especially to its old colleague, *The Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing*. We note the editor, Miss Geneviève Cooke, of San Francisco, is nominated this year for the Presidency of the American Nurses' Association. We hope she comes out top.

The Ranyard Nurses, the Nursing Branch of the London Biblewomen and Nurses' Mission, founded in 1868 by the late Mrs. Ranyard, are doing excellent work in many districts of London and the suburbs. The Central Office and Hostel is at 25, Russell Square, but each nurse lives in the centre of her own district, thus learning to know her patients, and gaining an influence over them which does not pass away when the illness is over.

The visits of the Superintending Sister, and the presence of a local referee, prevent her from feeling isolated.

Although founded so long ago, the Society has progressed with the times, and now requires a certificate of three years' training of its nurses, many of whom are also certified midwives, although not permitted to do midwifery as Ranyard Nurses. They also receive six months' district training. During the last year eleven new districts have been opened, and none definitely closed. Three centres for the treatment of minor ailments in school children have been undertaken by Ranyard nurses, and one has been appointed to the newly opened Tuberculin Dispensary in the Borough of Deptford, the first Municipal Dispensary of the kind in London. Eighteen nurses have joined the staff during the year, and nine have left. The Sisters, nurses, and probationers together number seventy. All the nurses have a fortnight's eye work, at the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, before being placed on a district; ten have availed themselves of the course of lectures on tuberculosis work at the

City Road Chest Hospital, and some are taking a period of practical work, with an examination at the end.

Messrs. Lamport & Holt, of Liverpool, the owners of the *Veronese*, which was wrecked near Oporto, have written an appreciative letter of thanks to Miss Helen A. Lawrence, the English Nurse who rendered such good service to the sufferers, asking her acceptance of a gold watch bracelet, on which an inscription is engraved commemorating her services.

Sir Arthur Downes, Inspector under the Local Government Board, speaking last week in the Town Hall, Liverpool, at the annual meeting of the Liverpool Council of Voluntary Aid, said we were running a considerable risk of becoming an institutionalised nation. Recent legislation was introducing new factors into this question. The position of nursing under the Insurance Act was one of great difficulty and very great importance. There was a danger that presently some of the great societies might find that there was a tendency on the part of people to fall ill too easily and a reluctance to get well quite soon enough. The big societies would have to protect themselves and the interests of their contributors, and there had been a suggestion that a type of official nurse might do something to check this tendency of malingering. He would be very sorry to see the day when professional nursing was utilised for the services of detection, to be, in fact, official or spy nurses. It would be contrary to all the traditions and proper functions of the nursing profession, and it would be a source of enormous friction both with the insured person and the medical profession, because to have a nurse reporting to an approved society behind the back of the doctor was a condition of things which one could hardly contemplate.

Mr. E. D. Court, Local Government Board Inspector, addressing the Penzance Board of Guardians recently, said he was not going to say a great deal about the nursing question, not because he did not want to, or because there was not great need for it, but because it seemed absolutely hopeless. He suggested that the services of a trained nurse were worth more than those of the imbecile attendant, but the Guardians were advertising for one at the same rate. Also that a much larger question was the need of an increase in the nursing staff, and he must impress upon them that they were running their institution with an inadequate night staff.

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