

Shortly after the death of King Edward the suggestion was made that the nurses of the country should pay a fitting tribute to a monarch who recognised in many ways the great and beneficent work accomplished by the profession. The proposal soon took definite shape, and a sum of £9,000 was raised by the nurses and their friends with the object of establishing homes for nurses as a memorial to the late King. These homes, it was proposed, should not in any sense be charitable institutions, but should be residences where nurses, who had a small private income, and who were too old to follow their professional duties actively, could live under the most comfortable circumstances compatible with their means. The £9,000 raised was placed in the hands of a committee in London. On this committee Scotland is represented by Miss Gill, Lady Superintendent of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Already a commencement has been made with the establishment of these homes, one having been founded at Clapham, where accommodation is provided for twenty-one nurses. It was then considered that what was required in London was also necessary in Scotland, where some hundreds of nurses are scattered throughout the principal cities. The London Committee have set aside £3,000 to establish such a home north of the Tweed.

A Scottish Committee took the scheme in hand. The Hon. Lord Ormidale was appointed chairman of the Committee, on which infirmaries and hospitals are represented by Miss Gill, Miss Milligan, Chalmers' Hospital, Edinburgh; Miss Melrose, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow; Miss Gregory Smith, Western Infirmary; and Miss Campbell, Victoria Infirmary. Among those who have consented to act as members of the Committee are Lady Arrol, Mrs. George Kerr, Mrs. Alexander Maitland, Sir J. O. Affleck, Sir Matthew Arthur, and Mr. James Clark, K.C., C.B. It is felt by the Committee that there should be one home in the East of Scotland and another home in the West, but that £3,000 will not be sufficient to meet the expenses of the establishment of these institutions, which will be self-supporting. It is considered not improbable that an appeal will have to be issued for funds to enable the Committee to carry out the proposed plans. The sites of the homes have not yet been definitely decided upon, but it is thought that the home in the East of Scotland will be somewhere in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh. To make these homes really popular as few rules as possible should be enforced.

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The "At Home," given by the Nursing and Resident Staff at Charing Cross Hospital, is always one of the pleasantest of the Christmas entertainments; and that on Wednesday, January 8th, was, if possible, more delightful than those which have gone before. Miss Heather-Bigg, the Matron, is an ideal hostess; for the concert, given in the Great Hall, Dr. W. J. Fenton and Mr. B. A. Lloyd (the hon. secretaries) had secured the assistance of many popular favourites in the theatrical world—several artistes from the Coliseum (by kind permission of Mr. Oswald Stoll), giving most willing assistance; and surely the sooner Charing Cross Hospital takes pupils in domestic economy, and lets them into the secrets of its house-keeping department, the better for the nursing world at large—for, in the arrangement of its buffet, the daintiness of its appointments, the quality and the service of its tea and coffee (as hot as if made freshly for each person), the freshness of its sandwiches, and the delectability of its cakes, it always excels.

Of the entertainment where each item was so excellent, it seems almost invidious to single out any for special mention, but the audience were delighted with the songs and patter of Mr. Charles Collette (which, indeed, were exceptionally clever), and Baby Esme Holderness (the youngest classical dancer in the world) charmed everyone, as she flitted lightly over the stage. With a programme so full of good things, although beginning at 7.30 and extending to over 10 o'clock, "God Save the King" sounded all too soon. Then came pleasant social intercourse in the apple-blossom decorated tea-room; and at last reluctant good-byes. It should be noted that the apple-blossom is another proof of the clever fingers at work in the hospital.

The Entertainment given by the Matron and Nursing Staff of Fulham Infirmary on January 9th and 10th was a most delightful and successful affair. On Thursday evening the performance was given especially for the patients, and, by the kind permission of the Medical Superintendent one ward was placed at the disposal of the performers, with a very good stage. There was abundance of room for every patient who was able to be present. On Friday evening the Nurses invited their friends and any former member of the Medical or Nursing Staff able to accept the general invitation given by the Matron received a very warm reception. About 200 guests were present.

The scenery in the first part of the programme represented Switzerland in Spring, and the place a tiny village nestling at the foot of the Matterhorn. The chorus songs, sung by twelve nurses, were beautifully rendered, the dresses of the performers adding greatly to the beauty of the scenery. "The Glow Worm," sung by Nurse

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