

### NURSING ECHOES.

At the Imperial Services Exhibition at Earl's Court those who penetrate so far will find the Red Cross Hospital in charge of Miss F. E. Lathom, one of the nurses who recently received a Badge from Queen Alexandra for her services during the Balkan War in connection with the British Red Cross Society. The hospital is a portable one which can be taken to pieces, packed on a single railway truck and put up in a day, making a building 50 feet long by 16 wide. The walls are flame, water, and acid proof and there is an air space between the inner and the outer walls. In the entrance hall are specimens of the outfit and appliances actually used during the Balkan War, and the emergency rations caused much interest. They consist of a one pound tin of corned beef,  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. of chocolate, 2 oz. of cheese, 6 large biscuits, a 1 oz. tablet of compressed tea, 3 ounces of loaf sugar, and, last but not least, 3 cubes of Oxo, convenient in form, and easy to convert into nourishing and appetising soup.

A stretcher which can also be used as an operating table designed by Mrs. Carnt, of the Red Cross Detachment, Wootton, I. of Wight, attracted much attention, and there is also to be seen a Red Cross ambulance cart lent by the Gloucestershire branch of the Society. The cart will carry three patients, two attendants, and a driver, nine gallons of water, four stretchers, medical and nursing appliances, cooking apparatus, and a full equipment of tools, yet is so compact and light that it can easily be drawn by a single horse, or failing a horse by men.

At another small Red Cross exhibit in the Ducal Hall Mrs. Palmer, a nurse who has also seen service is in charge. Here were specimens of the uniforms worn by the Red Cross workers of the Voluntary Aid Detachments, all the aprons bearing a prominent Red Cross, but otherwise indistinguishable from that of the trained nurse. The Commandant's dress is red, the Quarter Master's grey, the private's blue grey, and that of the trained nurse dark blue. The outdoor coats of dark serge are sensible but ugly, a felt hat, light and comfortable, with the Red Cross Badge in front is now compulsory, and a satchel completes the outfit.

At the church parade of the Liverpool Territorial Forces at St. George's Hall, Liverpool

on Sunday last, when the King and Queen were present, their Majesties with their suite withdrew afterwards to the library, where a number of presentations were made. Miss Glover, Principal Matron of the 1st Western General (Territorial) Hospital was amongst those who had the honour of being presented, and, as they left the Hall, the King and Queen inspected some fifty Sisters and Nurses of the hospital, who were lined up on either side of the cross aisle.

During the march past of the units on St. George's Hall Plateau, nurses attached to the hospital, in Territorial uniform, occupied a reserved section of the steps to the north of the Royal dais.

Sister Warriner and Sister Obee R.N.S. have left Constantinople for home, and upon medical advice will travel by sea on "S.S. Castilian" due at Liverpool on July 18th. Sister Warriner's work in aid of the poor refugees has been of a very helpful nature. It is to be hoped that the sea voyage will complete the long convalescence of Sister Obee after her very serious attack of enteric fever.

The Queen Victoria Nursing Association at Sheffield needs an additional £500 a year to meet the extra work thrust upon it through the National Insurance Act.

The question of the hours of duty of the nursing staff and domestic servants at the various institutions of the Birmingham Lunatic Asylums Committee is referred to in a report for presentation at the next meeting of the Birmingham City Council.

From statistics which have recently been obtained from seventy-seven asylums throughout the country, it appears that the average hours of duty per week for nurses and attendants are as follow:—Day duty: Nurses, 78 hours per week; attendants,  $77\frac{3}{4}$  per week. Night duty: Nurses,  $67\frac{3}{4}$  hours per week; attendants,  $67\frac{3}{4}$  per week.

Hitherto the hours of duty in the Birmingham asylums have been slightly over this average. Having regard to all the circumstances, the committee have decided in future to grant to all those on day duty five days' leave per month of twenty-eight days, and to all those on night duty one night off per week, in addition, of course, to annual leave. Under this new arrangement the hours of duty will be as follow:—Day staff, 72 hours per week;

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