

NURSING ECHOES.

One of the quaintest and most useful old customs is observed yearly at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, when Governors and officials make the grand tour of the whole hospital on View Day. Originally no doubt the hospital was open for inspection once a year after Spring Cleaning—when everything would be in tip top order, and as clean as a new pin. Of what value such preparation was in the old days, before asepticism was recognized as the chief weapon in fighting disease—and its antecedent “scrubbing and cleaning” was instinctively the “fetish” of capable matrons and nurses, can now be estimated.

This year View Day went off with great *éclat*. The Women's Guild held its annual meeting in the Great Hall, where tea was served. All the wards were most tastefully decorated, and Elizabeth, the maternity ward, was of course the great centre of attraction, as the babies always hold the biggest reception, and this year there were 14 of them, with “William Henry” comfortably ensconced in his incubator.

The schemes of decoration in the wards were wonderfully diverse, yet equally charming. In Stanley bloomed lovely yellow shaded and orange azaleas; President had sweet pink roses and white cornflowers; Colston, blue corn-cockles and cushions to match; Sitwell was specially attractive, decked with simple wild flowers, bluebells and buttercups. And in Faith were stately yellow iris, the children looking very sweet in party frocks of nun's veiling smocked with yellow.

Indeed, the whole hospital was in gala attire.

“Bart's” nurses had the great pleasure of attending the most interesting lecture given to the Students' Union by Staff Surgeon Levick, himself a Bart's man, who was with Scott in the Antarctic. It was agreed that his photographs were quite equal to Ponting's, especially in depicting the almost human demeanour of the penguins. Every boy and girl should see every show they can reproducing the life of explorers in the Antarctic—the unaffected heroism of men in wrestling with and overcoming difficulty is a lesson the young should take to heart. How often we have heard people exclaim, “Why go to these outlandish regions—what's the good?” The good is inestimable in these “soft” times. One realises Man—and how great he can be—for which let us be thankful.

The Committee of the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital at their last meeting decided that in future all nurses and probationers should have one whole day weekly off duty.

The Guardians of the Southwark Union Infirmary, East Dulwich, are at present considering a report from their Medical Superintendent, Dr. H. W. Bruce, on the Supply of Nurses, recommending a substantial increase in the salaries of the nursing staff, *i.e.*, Staff Nurses, whose commencing salary is now £26, to have a fixed salary of £36. Head nurses, now commencing at £32, to commence at £40, rising to £46. Night Superintendents, now commencing at £38, to commence at £46, rising to £50. Second Assistant Matron, now commencing at £40, and First Assistant Matron at £50, to commence respectively at £50 and £60, rising to £60 and £70.

We heartily endorse these proposals, and hope they may be adopted by the Board. Trained nurses work for long hours and have great responsibilities, and should receive a salary which will enable them to save a modest sum for their old age, and to take an annual holiday free from acute financial anxiety. At present most Sisters and nurses in institutions are much underpaid, when the value of their expert work is considered.

Dr. Bruce points out that at the present time something like a crisis has arisen with regard to the supply of nurses in institutions for the sick.

The Sick-room Helps Society and Nurses' Home is an admirable Jewish organization which might well be taken as an example by others. At the recent general meeting it was reported that the society had grown strong during the past 19 years by the very fact that it was a non-pauperizing agency, and that it embodied the great idea of mutual help, still, in its modest way, it had been in the van of modern thought.

Mrs. L. Model, in a commentary on the report, spoke of the humble mothers who saved their pence for emergencies and contributed £1,300 to the funds last year.

Mrs. Eichholz moved a resolution, which stated that, in view of the development of the work, the present title of the society was inadequate, and that the society should be known in future as “The Jewish Maternity, District Nursing, and Sick Room Helps Society.”

This new title was adopted.

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