

NURSING ECHOES.

The governors of the Tower Hamlets Dispensary, which is now being closed, have, we understand, on the suggestion of Mrs. Reidy, decided to devote the assets of that institution to extending the scope and improving the service of the East London Nursing Society. In addition to this it is proposed to ask the subscribers to the Dispensary to transfer their support to the East London Nursing Society. Mrs. Reidy, who at one time nursed for the Society, considers that the augmented income should be devoted to providing more nurses, better salaries, and improved homes, a programme which we heartily endorse. She advocates the establishment of one or two central homes, and that the Society should be entirely undenominational in its scope, so that it may be at the service of the whole community. Now is the time to strengthen its work so as to prepare for the epidemics which will probably break out after the war.

The report of the Society states that the work tends to increase rather than to diminish, and that the absorption of some hundreds of beds in the London Hospital for sick and wounded soldiers and sailors means that more of the civic population of East London must be nursed at home.

For some time past, and particularly since the outbreak of war, the need for a central meeting-place for the nurses in Bristol has been felt, and through the efforts of Mrs. Cary Batten, Miss Harvey, Matron of the 2nd Southern General Hospital, and others, excellent premises for the purpose have been secured at 84, White Ladies' Road, and the Bristol Nurses' Club was opened, on November 9th, by Mrs. Cary Batten.

The club, which will provide a welcome centre for nurses in their off-duty times, is run on purely social lines, and is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., including Sundays. The rooms are comfortably furnished, and light refreshments, tea, &c., may be obtained. There is a library and writing-room, and members, who will be introduced by the Matrons of the various hospitals and institutions, will have the right to introduce a friend. N.U.T.N. members from any part of England will be admitted on production of badge. The subscription is 5s. a year.

Mr. Richard Cross, who presided at the opening ceremony, said that as one of the senior medical men in the city he regarded it as a great privilege. Contrasting the conditions of nursing in the Crimean War with those

at the present day, he said that at that time Florence Nightingale was almost the only capable person to deal with the sick; now cultured and educated women in all parts of the country were serving. The President of the Club is the Duchess of Beaufort, and Miss Harvey (Matron 2nd Southern General Hospital), Miss Baillie (Matron Royal Infirmary), and Miss Mattick (Children's Hospital) are Vice-Presidents. The Treasurer is Col. Cary Batten, and the Secretary, Miss Johnstone.

The Leeds District Nursing Association calls attention to the fact that there is now available throughout the city the services of a visiting nurse, who will attend for a small fee at the homes of those who are not eligible for free nursing. This is an innovation which is intended to meet the requirements of those who, while not enjoying the means adequate to engage a nurse's whole services in cases of illness, are still able to pay for occasional visits.

Sir William James Thomas has given to the King Edward VII Hospital, Cardiff, a sum of £200, to be used as an endowment fund, the interest to be applied to the yearly purchase of a gold and silver medal to be awarded to the best nurses of each year. The nursing committee has unanimously passed the following resolution:—"That the nursing committee records its most cordial and grateful thanks to Sir William James Thomas for his continued interest and generosity to the hospital, and particularly in providing for a long-felt want by this endowment."

At a meeting of the Board of Management the Chairman, General H. H. Lee, said Sir William James Thomas seemed to go about trying to discover what people wanted in order to give it to them.

Dr. Herbert Vachell voiced the appreciation of the medical and nursing staffs, saying the medals brought them into line with other great hospitals, and would inspire their probationers to greater efforts to qualify themselves for the highest positions open to them.

We have had occasion to criticize the action of Committees in summarily dismissing members of their nursing staffs on frivolous pretexts; in the instance now before us a nurse was the offender. At a recent meeting of the Wrexham Board of Guardians the resignation of the Superintendent Nurse at the Infirmary was tendered. She intimated that she had intended to resign the previous week. In a further letter she asked to be released that day. Such a demand is most unreasonable.

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