

### NURSING ECHOES.

The King and Queen have sent handsome donations to Mrs. Drew, it being the jubilee year of the "Catherine Gladstone" Free Convalescent Home at Mitcham, thus showing their approval of the work done by this useful charity, and their regard for the memory of Mrs. Gladstone.

Speaking recently at a meeting in support of the home, Colonel Fenwick, of the London Hospital, referred to the cholera outbreak of 1866.

"Few who knew Mrs. Gladstone at that time," he said, "were aware of the extent of her foresight, and her power of calm self-detachment in times of danger and difficulty. When the wave of cholera broke over the East End of London (and cholera is like lightning, destructive and erratic in its course—one side of a street almost depopulated, while the other looked on in horror at the ravages of death across the road) the London Hospital was rapidly crowded with patients. The crush became so great that often one of the victims was just pulled off a bed on to the floor to make room for another just brought in.

"Amid these scenes of terror and suffering and death moved Mrs. Gladstone, with no thought of herself or her own danger, and with a quiet assurance and calm that brought comfort to the sick and dying, and courage to the overworked staff, carrying off in her own arms the babies whose parents had died of the scourge. It was her wisdom that foresaw the benefits of succour for the children, and the necessity of getting those who were recovering into the country. She made her great appeal, to which the heart of England nobly responded, enabling her to start without loss of time an orphanage and a convalescent home. From her original success in providing a free haven for the convalescent patients arose the London Hospital system of fifty-seven centres."

To mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Great Northern (Central) Hospital, the Committee of Management have been permitted to arrange a meeting at the Mansion House, on October 18th, at 3 p.m., in aid of the funds, at which the Lord Mayor will preside. It is earnestly hoped that in consideration of the increasing burden laid upon the hospital's resources the public will help the Committee in their efforts, and that liberal contributions will be received, which will accord with the well-known generosity of the benevolent.

Of the staff of eighty-six nurses, fifty-five are lodged in four private houses near by—an arrangement neither conducive to convenience nor economy, and it is hoped before long to raise a sum for building a nurses' home, to include an institute for private nurses for North London.

No trained nurse with less capital than £500 after equipment should attempt to run a Nursing Home. We noted recently that a receiving order has been made against a proprietress of a Nursing Home at Doncaster. Debtor's statement of affairs shows liabilities expected to rank for dividend amounting to £607 13s. 8d., and assets estimated to produce £85 17s. 3d., leaving a deficiency of £521 1s. 5d. The causes of failure as alleged by the debtor are as follows:—"I was away ill, or things would have gone on all right. I had every confidence it would be all right, or I should not have tried to take the business over. I have heart trouble, and have been under treatment for same."

From the Official Receiver's observations it appears the debtor commenced business in June, 1915, when she took over "The Victoria Nursing Home," with a borrowed capital of £25, having formerly been engaged as a nurse at the home. To enable her to pay the amount of the valuation of the home she borrowed £200 from a moneylender, giving him as security a bill of sale of the furniture, fittings, &c. She had repaid about £150 on account of this loan. In April last the moneylender took possession of the nursing home for the balance of his loan, and practically the whole of the furniture was sold to realise the amount owing to him.

This is a sad story of business incapacity, and should be a warning to others not to venture upon expenditure without a reserve of capital; it is sure to result in distress and disaster.

Miss Mary A. Owens, R.N., of Savannah, Georgia, describes in the *American Journal of Nursing* her experiences in the Southern Pine-lands. She writes:—

"On arrival, after a hurry call to the country, I found a typhoid patient, about whom the neighbours, as well as the family, were anxious. The telephone was constantly ringing, and such answers as the following were clearly audible to me in the patient's room: 'Yes, doin' well; we've got a trained nurse from the city, and she's a plum good 'un.' 'Yes, my wife's improvin' ever since the nurse come.' 'She's the first real nurse that's ever been in this county.' But the climax was reached when these words resounded through the house: 'Yes, a reel trained nurse; just

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