

NURSING ECHOES.

Many generations of nurses who owe their professional success and high ideals of nursing work to the careful training they received under Miss F. Hopkins, who for thirty years has held the position of Matron at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, learnt with regret that she is about to sever her connection with the institution, and members of the past and present nursing staffs of the hospital have united in presenting her with farewell gifts indicative of their affection and appreciation of her life's work, accompanied by a book in which their names are inscribed. The gifts included a clock in an inlaid Chippendale case; a pearl, diamond, and amethyst pendant, with platinum chain; and a cheque wherewith to purchase a writing-desk selected by herself.

The presentation took place at the hospital, and was made by Sister Jacob, the Senior Sister, in the presence of as many of the nursing staff as could be spared from the wards, and of Matrons and Sisters trained in the institution and now holding influential positions.

Sister Jacob asked the Matron to accept the nurses' gifts, which in days to come would be a testimony to her of their love, and their gratitude for her unremitting labour in furthering the general welfare of all who had come under her care and guidance. Through all her labours Miss Hopkins had set the staff a high standard of thoroughness in their work and devotion to duty, and it must be a great gratification to her to remember what a large number of highly trained nurses she had sent out into the world. Miss Jacob concluded by expressing the hope that Miss Hopkins would be spared many years to enjoy a well-earned rest.

In warmly acknowledging the gifts, Miss Hopkins said that the clock would remind her of those with whom she had spent so many pleasant hours, and the writing-desk would often be used in writing to each one of them words of cheer and encouragement in their work. She should keep deep interest in every stone of the building, but still more in the living subjects who worked within its walls.

In the board room of the hospital, earlier in the day, the Secretary presented Miss Hopkins with a pair of silver candlesticks in the presence of the donors—the clerical and male staff.

Mr. David Hollin, of Highfield Manor, Stafford, bequeathed, subject to his wife's interest, £12,000 to the Staffordshire General Infirmary for the erection of a nurses' home,

to be known as the "David Hollin Nurses' Home."

A good nurses' home makes for healthy, happy nurses, and in consequence for efficient nursing.

A golden quality in a nurse is discretion, not to mention reticence and reserve, and the nurse who, last Saturday, prosecuted an acquaintance on a charge of theft, seems to have been singularly deficient in all three in her relations with the accused.

It appears that Dorothy Langrish (the prisoner), aged nineteen, is the daughter of a gardener at East Liss. The nurse, Miss Florence Bell, got into conversation with her at Victoria Station, and apparently accepted her statement that she was the wife of a Colonel Murray, the daughter of Lieut.-Colonel Hughes, and the niece of "General Sam Hughes," agreed to act as her "nurse-companion," and accepted her invitation to lunch at the Hotel Cecil with some officers (some of whom addressed Miss Langrish as "little Miss Canada"). At the latter's suggestion she removed her luggage from Victoria to the Hotel Rubens, where they stayed together for two days. The prisoner then suggested that they should move to the Savoy, and said there would be nothing to pay at the Rubens, as everything would be settled on her account.

On her return to the hotel, Miss Bell found that the bill had not been paid, and many of her things—including clothing, jewellery, and a silver-fitted dressing-case—were missing.

The result was the arrest and conviction of Dorothy Langrish on a charge of theft, and also on a second charge of giving false particulars of herself at the Hotel Rubens, for which she was sentenced to four months' hard labour. In regard to Miss Bell, one can but wonder what she expected when she scraped acquaintance with a stranger in the way described. We hardly think she will receive, or is entitled to, a large amount of sympathy.

We note that it was reported at the seventeenth annual meeting of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association that "Once again during the year the question of State Registration for New South Wales has been mooted, but more urgent matters have occupied the attention of Parliament." We also read that "The number of members had increased, and it was worthy of note that the increase had been specially large in Queensland, where State Registration had now been in force for four years."

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