

NURSING ECHOES.

An invitation is extended to all members of the Nursing Profession, and those in course of general training, by the Hon. Lady Superintendent and the Management Committee of the Imperial Nurses' Club, 137, Ebury Street, S.W., from Monday, November 27th, to Saturday, December 2nd. It is intended that this house warming shall provide an opportunity for seeing the Club. Tea and coffee will be offered to the guests during the morning from 10 to 12.30, and the afternoon, 2 to 6, each day. No doubt large numbers of nurses will avail themselves of this kind invitation. No. 137, Ebury Street, is close to Elizabeth Street, which runs into Buckingham Palace Road west of Victoria Station, so that all buses which run to that station will land visitors near Ebury Street, S.W.

The Nurses' Co-operation will hold its annual "At Home" at 22, Langham Street, on Friday, December 1st, when the result of the Nurses' Needlework Guild will be on show. Subscriptions and parcels of garments, for which there is this season a most urgent need, should be sent by November 29th to Miss Hoadley, the Hon. Sec., at 22, Langham Street, London, W. There is always a splendid assortment of useful garments to be seen at this "At Home," in which the members of the "Co" take great interest, and which are afterwards sent just where they know the need to be great.

The report of the Home Committee of Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association shows that the work of providing highly trained nurses for private service in India has, owing to the war, been carried out under difficulties. For instance, of the eight nurses required in the spring, only five were sent, and of the six nurses and two midwives required in the autumn, two nurses and one midwife were supplied. The following are the Sisters sent to India since the issue of the last report:—Miss E. E. Reynolds, trained at the General Hospital, Bristol; Miss J. Lacon, trained Royal Infirmary, Liverpool; Miss L. M. McGill, trained Brookley General Hospital; Miss M. Pountney, trained County Hospital, Isle of Wight; Miss H. Parker, trained St. James's Infirmary, Balham; Miss Mary P. Hamilton, certified midwife by examination, Women's Hospital, Brighton; Miss M. Forrest, trained Prince of Wales' Hospital, Tottenham, N.; Miss K. Smith, re-engaged. There was a balance in 1915 of £354 16s. 2d., making an available income of

£849 15s. 9d. Under the heading of expenditure, we find the passage money and expenses of the eight Sisters amount to £509 11s. 9d. Miss Sidney Browne (Matron-in-Chief Territorial Nursing Service) receives a salary of £75 as Secretary, and the Committee acknowledge the sum of £25 returned by her as a donation. We do not approve of a plurality of paid posts being held by the senior highly paid officials in the Government Services, especially at the War Office in time of war. We are of opinion that the whole time of such officials should be at the disposal of the country whose paid servants they are, and that the regulations should forbid their accepting remunerative work outside—over which the War Office has no control: We can hardly believe that such a regulation does not exist. If it does not, the sooner it is put in force the better for all concerned.

We hear that a lady is doing "sort of chaplain" at Netley. The men wanted to have prayers read, but the authorities declared "it would interfere with routine!"

Surely prayers might well be included in "routine." Sisters usually read prayers in hospital wards, although we remember in our Sister days how much we disliked the "routine" prayers we were directed to read, especially those which inferred that, had the poor patients behaved better in the past, they might not have had to suffer the many torments for which they were warded in the present—and another which demanded gratitude from the poor for the hospital treatment provided for them by the more fortunate in pocket. We gave up reading those Pharisaical "pars" from the prayer card, and found no difficulty in substituting petitions to the Almighty which the patients appeared to greatly appreciate. We always prayed that "our Father" would care for the home whilst "mother" was away—that no harm should come to the children—that fire and food should be provided. We well remember one poor thing whose bed was near the prayer stand whispering very earnestly, "Do ar'st, Sister, as Bill may 'ave 'is clean shirt Sundays, and not pop Peggy's boots." We all prayed for the beautification of Bill on the Sabbath day, and that Peggy might not go barefoot, and no one found it the least amusing. But to avoid publicity, we invented "heart's desire." Before we said the Lord's Prayer, every woman silently asked for some blessing from on High, and then we pleaded for "heart's desire."

It seems incredible that we should have got into trouble for what a Scripture Reader called "playing prayer games," and we well re-

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