

NURSING ECHOES.

The King and Queen, accompanied by Princess Mary, visited last Saturday afternoon the sufferers from the recent munitions explosion. After visiting the devastated district, they paid a visit to the Poplar Hospital for Accidents and the London Hospital, where they spoke to each patient and received a loyal welcome.

The late Mr. Frederick Boase, of St. Leonards-on-Sea, has left his nurse, Miss Annie Kate Rance, nearly £5,000. Mr. Boase was for 26 years Chairman of the Law Society in Chancery Lane.

In these days we know nurses are scarce and their services difficult to retain, but we do not consider that when justifiable appeals are made to governing bodies to support lawful authority in cases of insubordination, the position will be improved by retaining the services of the nurse. By all means hear both sides, and let no injustice be done, but committees will do well to remember that the enforcement of discipline is at no time easy, especially at present, but that nevertheless it is the foundation-stone of efficiency. It is wise policy, therefore, to consult with their executive officers, and not to attempt to deal with matters of nursing discipline without giving the fullest consideration to their representations.

Two cases of which we have heard this week have called forth these remarks.

These cases have been referred to us for our opinion, in which nurses have been discharged, and then, upon reconsideration by the Board, their services retained without consulting the Matron, this means depreciating the authority of that officer, and rendering the maintenance of discipline almost impossible.

The Edith Cavell House, near Sydney, was formally opened on the 21st of December. Mrs. Sinclair Gillies (trained Bart's), and Miss Kendal Davies, with Miss Willow, the Matron, have furnished the Home with every comfort. There is a charming garden, and already many nurses have availed themselves of hospitality. Army nurses are received without payment, the Red Cross Society having given a sum to cover the cost of their maintenance. Other nurses pay 2s. a day, which provides bed, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner. The endowment fund at the end of the year was £6,336 12s. 8d., a tidy little sum.

The appeal for the Edith Cavell Home in

England is not, we hear, making quite the rapid progress desired. £30,000 is asked for, a large amount in these War Loan days.

Some Belgian ladies connected with the Service de Santé of the Belgian Army at Paris have recently forwarded contributions to the Edith Cavell fund. These contributions are all the more welcome for being quite spontaneous, and show how deeply the work of Edith Cavell has affected the women of the country in which she laboured. The fund has also received, through the Marquis A. Faa di Bruno, Royal Italian Consul in London, a handsome metal wreath, contributed by the Ladies' School of Hygiene at Turin, and subscribed for by the voluntary nurses of that city, "as a token of admiration and reverence for the memory of the brave and martyred nurse Edith Cavell."

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Meeting of the London Branch of the National Union of Trained Nurses was held at 46, Marsham Street on Saturday afternoon, Miss Marsters in the chair. Upwards of fifty nurses attended. Miss Cancellor spoke on the present "involved position" of the Nursing profession, and gave a history of past and present efforts for State Registration of Nurses. Miss Lawrence then spoke of the great need for unity and effective organisation among nurses; and gave instances to show how this had helped women workers since the present great demand for their work arose.

The Birmingham Branch of the N.U.T.N. held their first Annual Meeting on February 3rd at the General Hospital. The total number of members enrolled since its inaugural meeting in May, 1916, is 120.

After the usual business an address was given on "Business Meetings" by Mr. Priestley Smith, F.R.C.S., which was listened to with much interest. Tea was provided, when there was an opportunity for pleasant social intercourse.

A meeting of the Manchester Branch is to be held at the Royal Infirmary on Saturday, February 10th. Miss Cox-Davies and Miss H. L. Pearse are to address the meeting on the College of Nursing and State Registration. The latter, who is a member of the N.U.T.N., will speak on the necessity for independent co-operation amongst professional women, if a sense of professional responsibility and a high standard of ethics are to be evolved and maintained.

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