

NURSING ECHOES.

Amongst the good wishes for the New Year we greatly value those coming from our very true friends in the United States. Miss Adelaide Nutting, of Teachers College, tells us how she keeps herself informed of our great nursing problems, and realises fully problems such as we have to contend with must always be worked from within. This is very true, but we appreciate her sympathetic interest all the same. Oh that we in this country had the freedom and opportunity for professional development our colleagues have in the wonderful West. It is only a few days ago that one of our most generous workers for social evolution said sadly:—"Sometimes I wish I had never been to America. The contrast between freedom of thought and action there and our restrictive environment here is too acute. It makes one almost despair."

Well can we sympathise with this feeling, which we know is shared by so many of our Nursing Sisters from overseas, who are now serving the Empire on many fronts.

We regret we cannot find space for the reports of the very happy Christmas Day spent as usual by the sick in hospitals, but from all over the country we gather that everything was done to brighten the day for them, and make them forget their absence from home and all their pain and trouble. A very joyous time was spent at the Crippled Children's Hospital at Alton, where Sir William Treloar played Father Christmas, to the huge delight of the children.

The Queen Alexandra Nurses' Home had been most artistically decorated, and after dinner a fancy dress dance was held by the nurses, which was a great success, and was thoroughly enjoyed. The costumes were of great variety and beauty, and in the setting of the fine Recreation Room, where the dance was held, made a splendid picture. Great interest was added by the fact that Sir William Treloar presented prizes for the most original, the most patriotic, and the prettiest costumes. These were won by:—1, Nurse Horstead (prettiest costume), Egyptian water carrier—prize, pendant, spider's web in gold, spider in turquoise and pearls; 2, Nurse Crockford (most original), African woman—pendant, gold and pearls and aquamarines; 3, Nurse Breeze (patriotic), brown paper parcel and Christmas pudding—pendant, gold, French enamel, and pearls.

We have received several letters from nurses in the service of the Metropolitan

Asylums Board strongly objecting to the discontinuance of distinctive uniforms for the different grades of nurses. Apparently all, from Superintendent Nurse to domestic staff, are to wear gowns of Oxford shirting, the only distinguishing mark to be stripes and badges. Letters sent anonymously cannot be inserted. We feel sure this is a question on which the Nursing Staffs of the Board's hospitals should be given an opportunity of expressing an opinion, as it is largely a question of status and discipline, and is therefore of the utmost importance in the harmonious conduct of such institutions.

At a meeting of the City of London Guardians, on the 12th of last month, a letter was read from the Medical Officer, Homerton, reporting that a nurse had pro-German tendencies, and enclosing evidence of witnesses in support of the contention. The matter was discussed in Committee. On the Board re-assembling, the Chairman announced that the recommendation of the Committee was that the services of the officer should be dispensed with by giving her one month's money to terminate her appointment forthwith. The report was adopted by ten votes to seven. It was stated by the Chairman that the matter was in the hands of the police. Some of the Guardians determined to convene a meeting to secure rescission of the resolution granting the nurse a month's salary.

At an extraordinary meeting of the City Guardians, held on the 28th December, the Clerk read the minutes relating to the alleged pro-German conduct of the nurse. In answer to Mr. Victor Brown, he said he had not yet taken action with regard to her dismissal. It was reported that the police had informed the Clerk that at present there was nothing against the woman on which they could detain her under the Defence of the Realm Act.

The motion to rescind the resolution, "That the services of Charge Nurse — be terminated, and that she be paid one month's money as and from to-day" was lost—eight voted for it, and sixteen against. More, no doubt, will be heard of this matter.

The late Mr. F. Devereux Lambert, of Moor Hall, Cobham, Berks, has left £200 to his nurse, Miss Susan Ethel Rowe. We congratulate her on this recognition of her professional services.

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