

PRIZES FOR NURSES.

The Annual Prize-giving to the Nurses recently took place in the Board Room of the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital.

The Chairman of the Board, Mr. John D. Cobbold, presided, and was supported by Miss Deane, the Matron, Miss Collet, Assistant Matron, and the medical staff. In a few well-chosen words Mr. Cobbold eulogised the services of Miss Deane and Sister Collet, which evoked the great enthusiasm of the nurses and others present. Mr. Cobbold then proceeded to distribute the prizes, handing books of medical and surgical interest to the following:—

- 1st Division, 1st prize, Nurse Booth.
- 1st Division, 2nd prize, Nurse Palmer.
- 2nd Division, 1st prize, Nurse Mayes.
- 2nd Division, 2nd prize, Nurse Rogers.

With regard to the medals he had then to present, Mr. Cobbold explained that the position each nurse gained was this year based upon the marks won at the two examinations conducted by Mr. Russell Howard, M.S., F.R.C.S., and for general efficiency. The following were the winners:—

- Gold Medal—Nurse Saunders.
- Silver Medal—Nurse Sinclair.
- Bronze Medals—Nurses Shephard, Bingham, Scarfe, Cracknell, Sayer, Buck, Denny, Singleton, Francis, Wright, Nunn, Parr.

Great applause greeted each recipient of a prize or medal, and at the conclusion Mr. Cobbold called upon Miss Deane for her annual report.

Miss Deane, on rising, received an ovation from all present, and commenced her address with a feeling reference to one of the most promising members of her staff (Nurse Kirkland), who had been taken ill and passed away recently. The Matron's address to the nurses was one full of interest to those who heard it. Dealing with her own special prize, Miss Deane set forth very clearly to the nurses present the qualities that were necessary to win this, and it was evident that her frank but kindly explanation met with warm approval. Having concluded her remarks, she announced that the Matron's Prize was awarded to Nurse Buck, to whom, amid a scene of great enthusiasm, the Chairman then handed a travelling clock.

A vote of thanks to the Matron for her address, and cheers for her and for Sister Collet, brought the proceedings to a close.

HOSPITAL WORLD.

Princess Christian presided at a meeting held, by the invitation of the Duchess of Portland, at 3, Grosvenor Square, in connection with a special jubilee effort to help the Shadwell, East London, Hospital for Children. Her Royal Highness spoke of the ready help extended as our duty to wounded fighting men, but urged the claims of civil hospitals, particularly those for children. A *matinée* in aid of the institution will take place at the New Theatre on November 25th, and the Queen has promised to be present.

NURSING ECHOES.

The Right Honble. C. Addison, M.D., M.P., Minister of Reconstruction, received the Executive Committee of the Association of Approved Societies—which represents some 2,500,000 insured persons—which had invited information on the Ministry of Health Bill, at his office, Queen Anne's Buildings, on Friday, 1st inst. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, as President of the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society, and a Vice-President of the Association, was invited to attend. Miss B. Kent, who is a member of the Executive Committee, was also present. The delegation was introduced by the Right Honble. J. H. Thomas, M.P., and exceedingly interesting, but confidential, information was placed before it.

The Nursing and Midwifery professions, together with the Medical profession, will be entrusted with so important a part in giving effect to a Health Act, that now is the time for those who are drafting it to realise that the *personnel* of these all-important Departments must receive due consideration, and that the old system of organizing nursing and midwifery services for the people by amateur and aristocratic persons at sweated rates, must no longer be tolerated either by the workers or the State. If we are to have an efficient State Nursing Service under the Ministry of Health, as we have so often advised, we must have sufficient expert advice available to make it the valuable asset it ought to be for the community.

One thing enfranchised nurses bitterly resent is the assumption of authority over their professional affairs by rich, titled and leisured women, who have no knowledge of the ethics of self-support, and who have proved in the past incapable of respecting the rights of the wage-earner, culminating in the offensive "Serf Clause," to which they have, as members of Nursing Boards, subjected military nurses. We warn our legislators that for the future skilled professional nurses do not intend to submit to "class" government, and that if, after the war, the old "Society" control is to be continued in State Departments, they intend to rise and sweep it away without further ceremony. Forewarned is forearmed.

At the quarterly meeting of the Scottish Council of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, the report for the past three months' work was submitted. It showed that the Council

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)