

NURSING ECHOES.

Nurses are versatile people. The Prince of Wales' General Hospital, Tottenham, has had its full share of stress and anxiety during the four last strenuous years. The nearest Poor Law Infirmary (Edmonton) and the nearest large Fever Hospital (the North Eastern, M.A.B.) have both been closed to civilians, with resulting pressure on the beds at the Prince of Wales' Hospital, which also devoted some of its own beds to military cases; then the hospital has been in the air-raid zone, and lately it has been in the throes of the influenza epidemic. Yet the wards have been shorn of none of their Christmas brightness, and the Children's Ward was especially sweet, with fairy dolls, in gossamer and silver, and Pucks in red suits and pointed caps.

At their fancy dress entertainment on Friday evening, January 3rd, the nursing staff might have been without a care in the world, and to all appearances the question of nurses' votes could not arise in the hospital, for by no stretch of imagination could we believe that any member of the staff had arrived at the mature age of thirty. Sister Jean, for instance, in white muslin, with her fair, curly hair—in which stray sunbeams seemed imprisoned—tied up with white ribbons, might have been at her first party, and young at that, and yet we know her to be a pillar of the house, with many years of fine work to her credit.

The procession of the different characters round the room, in various groupings, was wonderfully effective, especially when—led by Britannia, draped in the British Flag, with steel helmet and trident complete—they advanced to the platform, where the invited guests occupied positions of vantage, and Britannia laid a laurel wreath at the feet of Miss Bickerton, the Matron.

The costumes were very attractive, some of the old world time ones being really beautiful. One fortunate nurse had secured a real Portuguese National Costume, the Five of Hearts and Five of Clubs, and the Jockey and Red Riding Hood were also most effective.

Before the party broke up a most appreciative and sympathetic little speech was made by the senior surgeon, Mr. Carson. "When I think of all you have been through," he said, "I am so pleased to see you all enjoying yourselves to-night. But how you have managed to prepare everything, as you have, is perfectly wonderful. I can't imagine how you have done it." The nursing staff cheered him to the echo, and returned the compliment by singing

"For he's a jolly good fellow." The programmes, designed and painted by a member of the nursing staff, were dainty and charming.

We are glad to know that the Committee of Management of the Great Northern Central Hospital has revised the scale of remuneration to Sisters as from the 1st inst. Night and Theatre Sisters will receive £50 per annum, increasing to £60; Ward and Casualty Sisters £42, rising to £55. All Sisters with six years' service will receive an additional £10 per annum. Staff Nurses will be paid £40 per annum. The salaries of Nurses were increased some time ago, the rates now being—first year nurses, £16 per annum; second year, £18; third year, £20; and fourth year, £28.

A bust of Edith Cavell, the gift and work of Sir George Frampton, R.A.—in memory of "one who was merciful, but to whom no mercy was shown"—has been placed in a ward at the Birkenhead Borough Hospital, and unveiled by Major-General O. R. A. Julian, C.B., C.M.G., Director of Medical Services, Western Command, Chester.

The Mayor, Councillor D. R. Rowlands, who presided at the ceremony, spoke of Miss Cavell as one who symbolized the spirit of British womanhood, and whose name would, for all time, be associated with those women who had devoted themselves to the cause of humanity.

Lord Mackenzie presided at the annual meeting of the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, which was held recently in Edinburgh. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said all the community realised how valuable was the work the Queen's Nurses had done in the life of Scotland, and how efficiently they had discharged their duties. No fewer than 160 Queen's Nurses had served their country throughout the last four years, abroad and in the military and naval hospitals at home, and 103 were still serving. Fourteen of their nurses had received war honours, and two had died in the service of their country. That was a record of which the Institute might well be proud. And not only had they carried on their great work in connection with the war, but they had done good service in the districts throughout the country, in the busy places which teemed with people, as well as in the remote and sparsely populated parts. He was certain, too, that they would be called upon to do even more important work in the period

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