

## NURSING ECHOES.

The Chelsea Hospital for Women has received £100 from Mr. J. Q. Rowett towards the building of the Nurses' Home, and £53 from an offertory at St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens.

The Concert and Variety Entertainment organized by Sisters Hill and Aughton, in aid of the Nurses' Home Section of the Institution's Progress Fund, for the Great Northern Hospital, and held at the Northern Polytechnic on the 12th inst., was, we are glad to hear, a great success. Good Nurses' Homes mean more to good nursing standards than the world at large realises.

Several hospital nurses benefit under the will of Mr. Samuel Joseph Sheldon, of Middleton-by-Wirksworth, who died recently. After a serious accident he was nursed in the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary. By the terms of his will that institution receives a legacy of £25, the matron receives £5, and the nurses who attended him benefit to the same extent. Wirksworth Cottage Hospital, where he was first taken after the accident, benefits by a legacy of £25; Miss Harden, the matron, has a bequest of £5, and the probationer nurse there is to receive a similar sum. No doubt the little legacy will be expended in some article in memory of this kind old man.

The Leeds Trained Nurses' Institution appears to have had a successful year. The staff number 54, and have attended during the year 444 cases. A sum of £800 has been added to the Pension Trust Fund for the benefit of the nurses. The district nursing branch of this institution continues its work amongst the poor of the city. The cases visited were 3,111, and visits paid 67,622.

We have noted some intelligent articles in the Scottish papers on the benefit of the Nursing Acts. Our Press appears singularly ill-informed on the subject. Now the nurses have won, in spite of the Press boycott, it is time it realised its responsibility, and dealt justly with this important question of national health.

The scheme drafted by the "Priory for Wales of the Order of St. John" to co-ordinate nursing organizations in Wales and Monmouthshire and to improve facilities for training in nursing seems for the present at least to have come to nothing, reports the *British Medical Journal*. It was proposed to establish

a Welsh National Committee for Nursing, containing representatives of various nursing associations in Wales, of the Welsh National Memorial Association, and other bodies, as well as of the medical profession and medical officers of health. The committee, it was proposed, should discuss and recommend general lines of policy, establish training hostels or other institutions, and take steps to provide an adequate midwifery service, which is considered to be a matter of urgency. A conference which was held last October was not well attended, and appears to have arrived at no definite conclusions. Another conference was held in Cardiff on February 6th, and again the attendance was poor. It would appear that the nursing associations are hanging back, and an explanation may, perhaps, be found in the resolution adopted at the conference last week, to the effect that consideration of the scheme should be deferred until the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John had been amalgamated, and until the intention of the Ministry of Health as to the training of nurses is made known.

Any scheme which attempts to organize professional nursing without consulting the nurses would at this juncture be very ill-advised. The Nurses' Registration Act for England and Wales provides for a General Nursing Council, which under the Act has power to define nursing standards of education, and to examine and register nurses. It is only fair that once this Council is appointed, and that, no doubt, will be at a very early date, it should be given time to do its work, and in the future to act as the responsible authority, which it is, for the Nursing Profession.

"A Welsh National Committee for Nursing," composed of the laity and the medical profession, cannot hope to succeed on the old lines of "control." Nurses are now members of a Profession, and will claim the right to be consulted about their own affairs, educational and economic. We fear it will take their employers some time to realise this fact, but the sooner it is done the better for all concerned. Nurses are most anxious to do all in their power for the benefit of the community, and all should consult and work together to this end.

The Belfast Board of Guardians has raised the probationer's inclusive salary for the four years' training and service to £90—from £59. This averages £22 10s. In discussing this question one Guardian remarked: "I should

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