

## NURSING ECHOES.

We have very sincere pleasure in reporting that Miss Elma Smith, the very popular Matron of the Colindale Hospital, who underwent a serious operation last week, and has been dangerously ill for a few days, is delighting her nurses and friends by her powers of recovery, and there is now every hope that she will make a good convalescence. During her long and honourable service as Matron of the Hendon Infirmary, now Hospital, Miss Elma Smith has greatly endeared herself to several generations of pupils, and to hundreds of sick people. We cannot afford, in these days, to lose any of the courageous women who have spent themselves and their money in winning the Nursing Acts, and helping to found the Profession of Nursing. Miss Smith became a member of the R. B. N. A. in 1888, and has worked splendidly for Registration since that day to this, and we cannot spare her now in the day of Victory.

We have received from Miss Antoinette E. Schuller, the Editor of the C. L. S. A. Nurses' League, a copy of its 1919 League Journal, which contains an excellent portrait of this lady as a frontispiece, which her fellow nurses will be charmed to receive.

The City of Westminster Infirmary, Hendon, is no longer a Poor Law Nursing Training School. The fine building has been taken over by the Metropolitan Asylums Board, working with the Ministry of Health, and is to be used for the treatment of tuberculosis, where very up-to-date treatment will be under the supervision of the new Medical Superintendent, Dr. Marcus Paterson. It is rumoured that the building is to be enlarged to accommodate more beds, and this will necessitate extending the Nurses' Home for the increase of staff. Much interest has been shown in the new arrangement by past nurses, who are anxious to return to Hendon and forward the work.

The Guardians have decided for the future to present a silver medal to the nurse who heads the examination list, and a bronze one to the second.

The beautiful Memorial Tablet erected for the nurses who fell in the war was placed in position in the Home at the end of the year, and is still waiting for the unveiling ceremony, which, together with the General Meeting of the League, is postponed owing to the sudden illness of the President, Miss Elma Smith. Not for long, let us hope. The League Journal contains interesting "War Records" of the work of the members.

A very sympathetic article appears from the pen of Miss L. C. Cooper, who is now engaged in Health Visiting, and is evidently an ardent lover of babies, or she could not write of them so tenderly:—

"I have just witnessed the death of one of my babies—the sweetest, prettiest, well-cared-for and loved baby in the district, just ten months old.

I had thought that in my district there should be no Infant Mortality, but my conceit is gone. Alas; I felt so certain that if I watched over my mothers and babies, and worked hard, that my little ones would be enabled to grow up strong, healthy citizens, able to lead good, useful lives, but God still moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform, and it appears to me as though the beautiful Temple not made with hands, and the many mansions which are being prepared for us cannot be built altogether of jasper, gold and precious stones, but inasmuch as His only Son became the corner stone, so the beautiful carvings and work must be filled in by our own priceless treasures, and when each one is called home it must be because He is just ready for that bit of his own handiwork, and that this sweet babe, in perfect health and beauty, is filling an important niche in the Temple of God. As I think this I become less bitter, more humble and not so ready to give up in despair."

There are other interesting articles in this Journal, and it is very well edited and produced.

A fire in an institution containing blind men is a terrifying ordeal, and 150 blinded soldiers and sailors were in bed at St. Dunstan's Hostel, Regent's Park, N.W., when a fire broke out in the linen room in the early hours of Friday, March 26th. Their discipline stood them in good stead, and they dressed coolly and quickly, and were then conducted by the Matron and V.A.D. nurses to the lounge in the west wing, where they remained until the fire was got under.

About fifty V.A.D.'s were sleeping on the top floor, and they made a hurried escape down the emergency iron staircase, many of them only having time to put on shoes and wrap themselves in cloaks over their night attire. Two of them (Miss Effie Grevilink and Miss Esme Collingwood) sustained bruises, and Miss Sava Frankland was discovered lying under a bed in one of the rooms, overcome by smoke, and unconscious. She was removed to the Middlesex Hospital, where, we are glad to learn, she progressed favourably.

The fire was extinguished in two hours, but the linen room was destroyed, and the ward beneath and the passages were badly damaged.

The General Hospital, Birmingham, is a very

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