

NURSING ECHOES.

An interesting ceremony will form part of the business at the General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses on July 3rd. A Presentation is to be made to Miss Beatrice Cutler on her retirement as Hon. General Secretary to the League for six years.

Miss S. J. Cockrell, the Matron of St. Marylebone Infirmary, Notting Hill, invites all Marylebone trained nurses to a garden party and the First Annual Presentation of Prizes to the Probationers, on Wednesday, July 14th, at 3 o'clock. Any nurse living at a distance who would like to be put up for the night, and those who have not yet received an invitation card, are requested to write to the Matron as soon as possible, when one will be forwarded. This should be a delightful reunion after the war.

A very delightful "At Home" was that given by the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, henceforth the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics, on June 26th, at the Langham Hotel, to celebrate the grant to the Society of a Royal Charter. The guests, who numbered some 450, were received by Miss Bliss (the Chairman), Miss Lucy Robinson (founder member), looking very happy, though very tired, and it added to the pleasure of the gathering that five of the original founders of the Society, besides Miss Robinson, were present—Mrs. Dove, Miss Maclean, Miss Manley, Miss Rosalind Paget and Mrs. Palmer—and Miss Templeton, the Secretary, who has worked so capably and indefatigably. A beautiful suite of rooms were crowded, and little parties foregathered over ices, fruit salads, cakes and, of course, tea—tea hot and delicious, such as masseuses, as well as nurses, love.

The musical programme was arranged by Mrs. Robinson-Smith, and the finished and delightful singing of Miss Dorothea Webb, Miss Nina Robinson, Mr. John Adams (tenor) gave unqualified pleasure to all music lovers. Mr. Ulph Smith gave a most clever and amusing musical sketch, "How I obtained the post of organist." The I.S.T.M., which has done such good work in raising the standard of massage and the status of masseuses, is to be congratulated on obtaining the prestige conferred by a Royal Charter, and on its manner of celebrating the event.

A movement is being supported to establish a Club for members of the Naval and Military

Services, and other nurses who have served in Naval and Military Hospitals. The temporary offices are at 35, Mecklenburgh Square, W.C., and the proposal is receiving society and official patronage.

In future the rates of pay for the Ministry of Pensions Nursing Service will be as follows:—Matrons, £115 to £185 per annum; Charge Sisters, £75 to £85; Nursing Sisters, £60 to £65; Assistant Nurses, £25 to £40. War service is counted towards increment in all ranks.

In the House of Commons, on June 17th, Mr. Lyle asked the Minister of Pensions whether alternative pensions are allowed to officers and not to nurses; whether these pensions permit officers to be placed in the same financial position as they enjoyed before the war, plus an increase; if they are thereby benefited more than by the pensions ordinarily laid down, while nurses are not allowed to so benefit; and whether, in view of the feeling amongst nurses generally, he will reconsider the distinction, with a view to a change being made?

Mr. Macpherson replied: Alternative pensions have not hitherto been allowed for nurses by the Royal Pension Warrants. The question of extending the benefits of this class of pension to nurses is at present under consideration, but I am not yet in a position to make any announcement.

June 27th being the anniversary of the death of the Rev. Herbert Aitken, late Rector of Haslemere, who three years ago gave the beautiful house and garden of Coombe Head to the Edith Cavell Fund for a Home of Rest for Nurses, it will interest the 300 who have been guests there to know that special thought for their generous benefactor was included in the services at the parish church, the choir singing Tennyson's beautiful lines, "Crossing the Bar." His grave was covered with a mass of perfect roses, some of which were sent from Coombe Head. Others were distributed to the women of Lambeth by Mrs. Aitken, he having been their rector the latter years of his life. The Aitken Memorial Fund report that £1,220 : 14s. has been collected, and that another £55 : 5s. has been promised. Half of this sum has been sent to Lambeth, while the remainder, allotted to Haslemere, will be sufficient to place a memorial tablet in the church, and, in addition, will go a long way towards purchasing a cottage for the parish nurse. Three generous friends have guaranteed the balance to complete the purchase.

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