

NURSING ECHOES.

Miss Lavinia L. Dock, from U.S.A., sends the "Lady Dynamo" of the *B.J.N.* hearty good wishes for a happy Christmas—"a somewhat belated wish just as the prospect itself of Peace on Earth, goodwill to men seems rather an irony as yet . . . Nothing cheerful to note except that Miss MacCallum has won her suit—plucky, admirable girl!" Miss Dock notes with great pleasure that "Australia is ready to join the International . . . Miss Lyons is indeed a woman of fine and broad mind."

Miss Dock proposes to invite "internationals" to Seattle informally in 1922. Fancy a Nursing Congress in Alaska! It appears far away to us, but is easy of access for Canada, and may tempt our colleagues from the other side of the Pacific. What we really do need are travelling scholarships in the Nursing World, so that enterprising nurses may be able to attend far-away conferences, and see and learn all that is new in nursing outside these dear, narrow, little islands. We have a beginning in the Isla Stewart memorial, but in these days of costly travel, very little can be done if we cross the Atlantic, for less than £200. More than one nurse has told us "had it not been for the Great War I should have died without seeing anything beyond the Channel of this magnificent world, now—mixed with heart-rending memories—there are all sorts of glorious mental pictures, never to be forgotten."

In reply to a communication we learn that the Prison Commission of the Home Office has under consideration the whole scheme of nursing in prisons, and that it will be pleased to give information when the matter has been decided.

The chief point on which we are anxious for information is, whether trained nurses are enrolled as members of a Prison Nursing Service as they should be, or whether they have the rank and perform the duties of wardresses.

We hope the Commission will give careful consideration to this important distinction, as otherwise nursing in prisons will make but little headway—and will not meet the crying need for psychological observation and care by trained specialists of all classes of criminals. We have long advocated this reform.

Miss S. Margery Fry, speaking on "The Community and the Criminal" recently urged that every great prison should have a specialist to advise about the mental condition of prisoners.

Big increases of salaries are to be paid to the Nursing Staff at the London Hospital from January 1st. It is good to note the Matron of the Hospital advocating in the *London Hospital Gazette* "the right status and adequate salary" for trained nurses. We presume the nurses on the private staff will enjoy the same advance in salary as their colleagues employed in the wards, especially as they earn so largely in support of the hospital.

Lord Knutsford, Chairman of the London Hospital, gives an amusing account, in a letter to the press, of the way in which the nurses circumvented the Committee, and secured turkeys for the patients' Christmas Dinner. The Committee decided that, owing to the financial straits of the hospital the patients could have no turkeys, equally they decided that the nurses were not to forego theirs. First a polite request came to the Committee, "Might the nurses give up their turkeys to the patients?" Answer, "No." Then came an innocent letter: "Was it correct that if a turkey were given to one of the wards on a floor the Committee had decided that a turkey should be purchased for the other ward on the same floor as the Committee did not wish that patients who were within sight of each other should have different dietary on Christmas Day. Was that so?" Lord Knutsford replied that was so. Another innocent request followed: "Could a ward to which a turkey had been given be credited with the value of the meat and fish that was saved to the hospital on account of the gift of the turkey?" The Committee replied that would be fair. The rest was easy. Some one was persuaded to give a turkey to Ward A. This produced a turkey in Ward B on the same floor under Resolution 1. Ward B turkey saved the cost of meat there, so this was spent on a turkey for Ward C by Resolution 2. Ward C having got its turkey, Ward D on the same floor had to have one, and so on round all the wards.

We do not wonder that the 750 nurses of the London Hospital disliked being compelled to eat turkey while the patients went turkey-less. It is against all nursing tradition, and we congratulate them on their victory. We gather from Lord Knutsford's letter that he chuckles over it too.

An all round rise of salaries for the Nursing Staff at the Camberwell Infirmary has been recommended by the Finance Committee to the Guardians. Assistant Matron, £130; Junior Assistant Matron, £100; Superintendent Night

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)