

NURSING ECHOES.

A meeting, at which Father John Nicholson will preside, will be held at the Convent, 58, Holland Park, Kensington, on Wednesday, March 30th, at 4 o'clock, to inaugurate a "Club for Catholic Nurses," all of whom are cordially invited to attend. The benefit of professional clubs, where members can meet on terms of social intercourse are appreciated, and in the case of nurses belonging to the Roman Church such a meeting place should prove a great boon, and especially for private nurses, as the opportunities of those drawn together by the ties of a common religion are few and difficult.

The Cardinal Archbishop has therefore invited the Handmaids of Mary to help in founding a Club for Catholic Nurses, and the nuns have acceded to the wishes of His Eminence, and consented to set aside certain rooms for this purpose on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

We regret to note that the Brighton, Hove, and Preston District Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, has had to reduce its staff owing to lack of funds, and after 24 years' work the annual report announces:—

"The chief sources of income—voluntary subscriptions, public health work, patients' payments, and training fees for candidates—do not even cover the salaries of staff, uniform, and board."

Another extract from the report says:—

"It would appear as if in the future the steady income from voluntary subscriptions will no longer be reliable, and the only way to keep the association solvent will be by organising popular functions and amusements to raise funds."

It cannot be said that the decrease in funds is due to any slackness on the part of the nurses, for 1920 was a record year, the number of cases showing an increase of 325 over 1919. The balance sheet, however, demonstrates that there has not been a corresponding response on the part of the general public, and the Queen's Nurses will thus be unable to form an important unit in the provident scheme now being organised in Brighton and Hove. A tribute to the work of the Queen's Nurses was paid at the recent annual meeting by Dr. Duncan Forbes, M.O.H., Brighton, who stated that whereas 30 per cent. of the cases admitted to the Blind School owed blindness to inflammation of the eyes just after birth, since

the nursing had been undertaken by the Queen's Nurses, no further recruits from that cause had been under treatment at the institution. Earnest appeals were made by several speakers for more financial support.

Efforts to co-ordinate the various district nursing societies of Birmingham were brought to a successful issue at a recent Conference at the Council House. Representatives of all the district nursing societies in the city were present, and it was decided to set up a Central Co-ordinating Committee, which will be joined by twelve societies, King's Heath alone remaining outside. Two representatives will be appointed to the Central Committee by each organisation, the functions of the committee being outlined as follows:—(a) For comparison of work of societies by quarterly meetings with brief report from each society; (b) to benefit by exchange of ideas and methods; (c) to consider such questions as nurses' salaries, hours of duty, &c., with a view to arriving at a standard of efficiency generally; (d) to co-operate to extend service to unprovided areas and link up work in adjacent areas; (e) to co-operate in buying such materials as are required, if by so doing economies can be effected; (f) to advise the District Nursing Augmentation Fund on the distribution among societies of funds collected centrally for maintaining services.

A very successful sale of work, and American tea, was held last week at the Stockport Infirmary to provide funds for furnishing the new Nurses' dining room. The Sale was organised by the Matron (Miss Goodacre) and the nursing staff, assisted by the wives of the honorary medical staff and others. The opening ceremony took place in the Out-patient Department, the Chairman, Sir Alan J. Sykes, Bart., M.P., presiding, and the Sale being declared open by Lady Sheffield, who said they had splendid buildings, good nurses, and everything to make the institution the success it ought to be.

Dr. Murray, in proposing a vote of thanks to Lady Sheffield, said that since Miss Goodacre came among them the Nursing Department had shown development, and Dr. Marriott said good nurses were invaluable, but were, at best, poorly paid, and the least that could be done was to make their lives outside the wards as comfortable as possible.

There were three stalls—the nurses' stall, the honorary medical staff stall, and the flower stall—and the highly satisfactory result was that several hundreds of pounds were realised.

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