

NURSING ECHOES.

Queen Alexandra will drive down to the London Hospital on July 6th, and open the Nurses' Bazaar in support of their attempt to inaugurate a fund to open the 200 beds which were recently closed. The Bazaar is to be held in the grounds—a fine open space at the back of the Hospital—and the event will no doubt attract the wealthy West to the East with their pockets full of money. All sorts of amusements are being arranged, and the proprietors of the Royal Palace Hotel, High Street, Kensington, have offered to lend the services of Chester, the famous *chef* of Sir William Orpen's Diploma picture now in the Academy. An item in the programme which will appeal to many visitors, will be tours round the wards, conducted by a doctor and nurse. The bacteriological and chemical laboratories, and the X-ray department, where demonstrations will be given, the anatomical museum, and the kitchen, laundry, and nurses' homes will be inspected.

Nurses are such capable organisers that they do not need personal assistance in management of the great event, but they would greatly appreciate gifts for sale. These should be sent to the Matron, London Hospital, London, E. 1, and every old "Londoner" should urge her friends to visit the Bazaar, and help clear the stalls. We learn all sorts of charming things will be on sale at reasonable prices.

Sister Christina Jane Baxter and Sister Gladys Brown, of the Registered Nurses' Society, will leave for Athens on military duty at the end of the week. They will travel via France, Switzerland, Italy and Serbia to Greece.

Sister Baxter was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, and was Acting Matron, Lewis Hospital, Stornoway, 1914-1916, and Sister T.F.N.S. at the 4th Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow, 1916-1919.

Sister Brown was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, and worked in the Southern Military Hospital, Bristol, T.F.N.S., from 1916-1918, and at the Special Military Surgical Hospital, Southmead, Bristol, 1918-1919.

Holborn Board of Guardians at a meeting last week received a letter from the nurses at the Holborn and Finsbury Hospital, Highgate, protesting against the Board's decision to discontinue the payment of bonus. Sir William Smith thought the nurses had taken an undignified course in protesting against what was

obviously a right resolution. The Board would not get a contented staff by bribes, and that, he said, was what it came to.

The truth is that war bonus should now be decreased throughout all the public services, as many ratepayers are unable to pay the extortionate rates without great personal suffering and self-sacrifice. "You can't get butter out of a dog's throat."

Miss Mary Dempster, whose patient, Colonel Villiers, left her £3,000, informs us that she had known him many years before she went to nurse him, and that she had severed her connection with the Registered Nurses' Society several months before she went finally to take care of him and his household. The legacy proves the appreciation of the late Colonel Villiers for Miss Dempster's devoted professional attendance for many years.

The controversy at the Steyning Union Infirmary concerning the signing of certificates for two probationary nurses who were suspended for alleged cruelty to patients and other faults, after having passed their examination, is one of great interest to all concerned. The nurses complain they have never, until after the refusal of certificates, been able to place their case in full before the whole Board of Guardians, and they denied the accusations. The Board suspended the nurses, and then certain members desired the medical officer to sign a modified certificate for them. This he very rightly refused to do.

As the matter stands, the Guardians must exonerate the nurses before they can expect the medical officer to sign the certificate of the School granted to those probationers who deserve it, both for good conduct and theoretical knowledge. The matter has now been taken up by the Women's Co-operative Guild, and at a meeting at which Guardians who sympathise with the nurses were present, they condemned their colleagues, who differ from their conclusions. At this meeting Mr. Mimmack is reported to have said that he tried without success to make the Board take some steps, and he, therefore, wrote to the Ministry of Health himself. He had urged the Ministry to hold an inquiry. If the Ministry took up the position that if the doctor would not sign the certificates they could do nothing, it would place the Medical Officer in supreme control and make him dictator to the Guardians.

After further discussion it was unanimously decided to take legal steps with a view to

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