

## NURSING ECHOES.

The Duke of Portland presided last week at the annual meeting of the Queen's Fund for the maintenance of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

The Duke said it was a matter for sincere congratulation that there was no falling off in the number of nurses desiring to be trained as "Queen's Nurses." The finances of the Institute were at present in a very critical state. In spite of all possible economy, the estimated expenditure for the year would exceed the available income by nearly £4,000, and they had an overdraft of £791. Any further reduction in expenditure would result in a serious crippling and curtailing of the institution.

The Duke added that the secretary had received a letter from Mrs. Hurle, a supporter of the fund, in which she offered to give £100 if nine other similar amounts were guaranteed. Mrs. Hurle's offer was gratefully accepted, promises to give, or undertake to raise, sums of £100 each being made by the Duke of Portland, Lady Curzon, Lady Fitzgerald, Sir Harold Boulton, Mrs. Yerburgh, and Lady Ermyntrede Malet.

The Annual Sale of Work in aid of the Ranyard Mission will be held at Ranyard House, 25, Russell Square, W.C.1, on Wednesday, March 14th, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

There are 72 Mission Workers and 84 District Nurses living and working in the poorer districts of London, and their work is more than ever necessary in these times of difficulty and unrest. £4,000 additional income is necessary to maintain the Mission at its present strength, and an earnest appeal is made for generous support.

We are informed on good authority that it was a very "ignoble Lord" who misinformed the Serjeant-at-Arms concerning our quite constitutional methods of procedure in the House of Commons. No wonder we need a Committee on Honours to prevent such bounders buying titles in the future.

Hospital Committees and Boards of Guardians are doing their best to provide suitable means of relaxation for their nursing staffs. Tennis and croquet out of doors, and dancing and libraries indoors. The modern girl needs

more recreation than former generations of nurses, and we have no doubt the change is a healthy sign. Bed and books were the relaxations in our day, and it was a great treat to visit other hospitals and pick up all the hints possible. It was not impossible to have Matron's door slammed in your face, and be told there was "nothing doing"!

We note with pleasure that the nurses at St. Leonard's Hospital, Shoreditch, do not want the smoke room which the Guardians decided to provide for them, and take strong exception to the statement made by a member of the Board that over 90 per cent. of them smoke—which they say is absolutely false—and other remarks passed at Committee or Board Meetings. They have, they say, the reputation of their training school to consider, and also their future careers. The publication of such remarks is detrimental to both, and they wish a contradictory statement widely broadcast over London. Over fifty members of the nursing staff sent a circular letter of protest to the Board, and wish a contradictory statement published in the papers which printed the remarks complained of. They assert that fully 90 per cent. of their number do not smoke, and also informed the Board that the nurse referred to by the Committee was smoking on duty, and in their opinion the Matron was quite right in correcting her.

Eventually it was agreed to send a reply to the effect that the Board regretted that in the general remarks during the discussion the term "90 per cent." was used, and that it should be regarded as a figure of speech.

We congratulate the nurses on repudiating the statement. Smoking is a drug habit, and one of which nurses, in our opinion, should steer clear.

At a meeting of the Notts Nursing Federation, held recently in the Shire Hall, Nottingham, under the chairmanship of the Duchess of Newcastle, it was announced that the Ministry of Health had made them a grant of £546, as against £597 last year.

The Secretary, Miss W. M. Blagg, explained that twelve months ago they made a grant of 4s. to each midwifery case, 2s. to each maternity case, and a present of £9 to each of the country districts. This year she had provisionally worked out a scheme under which 5s. would be given to each midwifery case, 2s. 6d. to each maternity case, a present of £7 to each country district, and 30s. to

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