

NURSING ECHOES.

The preparations for the great Octocentenary Celebrations, says *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal*, are steadily and quietly going forward. As, to a very large extent, the work of each sub-committee must be approved by the General Committee before it is published, it is not desirable at the present moment to say much about the details of the festivities. Certain small facts have recently come to our notice. The tableaux are under the direction of the following gentlemen: Sir Aston Webb, P.R.A., W. Richard Jack, Esq., R.A., Charles Ricketts, Esq., A.R.A.; Charles H. Shannon, Esq., R.A., Charles Sims, Esq., R.A., and Solomon J. Solomon, Esq., R.A.—so, artistically, they will be as perfect as it is possible to be. The Post Office Square has been very kindly lent to the Hospital for part of the Fair.

Amongst the exhibitions of the Scientific Sub-committee will be:

Pathological Specimens,	Laryngological Instru-
Ancient Surgical Instru-	ments,
ments,	Exhibition of Nursing,
Hospital Kitchen,	Exhibition of Medical
Hospital Dispensary,	Gymnastics,
X-Rays,	Chemical Phenomena,
Electrical Apparatus,	Physical Phenomena,
Ophthalmic Instru-	Blood Transfusion,
ments,	Short Lectures.

An interesting exhibit will also be a large map of the world, with lines radiating from London to the various parts of the globe containing Bart.'s men or nurses.

The heroism of two nurses saved a ward full of children during a sudden fire which recently broke out in the Birmingham and Midland Nerve Hospital.

An electric light fused and set alight a room adjoining the children's ward. In a few moments the flames had spread to the ward itself.

Night Nurses Murray and Reed, working in the dark, roused the staff and telephoned for the fire brigade. Then they set to work to rescue the children. In spite of dense smoke and great heat, thirty patients, old and young, were carried to safety within ten minutes. Much damage was done before the fire was extinguished.

Nothing could have been more admirable than the conduct of the nurses. We love to record brave deeds.

The American Nurses have evidently inherited the spirit of adventure. They are out and about all over the world. It is interesting to note from the *Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing* that they are pioneering in Alaska, their farthest north State:—

Miss Ebba Djupe, Red Cross nursing representative in Alaska, has been doing some real work in that pioneer country. A recent report contains some highly interesting material, far more dramatic in its appeal than the average magazine story which comes to one's hands.

In Skagway she reports that during the first inspection of school children some twenty-one mothers came to school. A mothers' conference resulted in one mother being asked to canvass the town in order to get the sentiment of the people in regard to having a specialist come to Skagway to remove tonsils and adenoids, and also to treat the eyes, since there is a great deal of eye disease in the country. The mother who was chosen for the organisation of this work had three children who needed medical attention. She seems to have been successful in this undertaking as the specialist a little later received a letter from the Skagway mothers stating that twenty-seven children would be ready for operation if he could arrange to come.

Absence of milk in this country is a serious drawback to child feeding. Many people are compelled to use canned milk and fresh vegetables are difficult to obtain.

Tuberculosis is rife among the natives, and rarely does a case recover. A local doctor reported that whole families succumb from this dread disease, and within the last four years it was a common experience to bury five and six members of the same family. There is no tuberculosis hospital provision whatever made for the natives, and the tremendous problem which confronts the doctors and nurses is well nigh past relief.

Miss Djupe has found the finest kind of response, not only from the few scattered professional nurses she has found there, but also from the public-spirited citizens with whom she has come in contact. It is work after all that makes a decided appeal to a public health nurse. The tremendous and immediate need for a definite constructive programme of education in matters of health and sanitation is readily recognised. Juneau Chapter has already placed an order for a Red Cross Public Health nurse, and the wonderful opportunities which will be hers can be a matter of envy to the rest of us.

The *Times* correspondent from Brussels announces that Nurse Cavell had a dog to which she was greatly attached. After her execution her friend, the Princesse de Croy, gave it shelter and took care of it. The dog has now died, and Mme. de Croy has had the body embalmed and has offered it to the British Museum, which has accepted the gift.

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