

## NURSING ECHOES.

Her Royal Highness Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, last week laid the foundation-stone of the Nurses' Hostel of the Clayton Hospital, Wakefield, in the presence of a large audience. The ground for the Hostel has been given by Sir Edmund Stonehouse in memory of his son, who was killed in the war, and the ex-Mayor, Mr. H. H. Holdsworth, who three weeks ago inaugurated a campaign to obtain £4,000, prosecuted it so successfully that he was able to present a cheque for £6,000 to the Princess, which will more than cover the balance required for the erection of the Hostel and the cost of furnishing it. Amongst those honoured by presentation to Her Royal Highness after the ceremony were the Matron of the Hospital (Miss Agnes Cameron, S.R.N.) and Mr. Henry Maw, the Secretary.

The Election has come at a very inopportune time for private nurses in London, as October to Christmas is generally a slack time, even when people return to their town houses after the summer holidays, and we hear on all sides that the Hostels are overcrowded with private nurses waiting for cases.

We always advise London nurses not to take six weeks' holiday in the height of summer, when cases have often to be refused, but to rest in the off season. This, however, many consider a great hardship, as long, sunny days out of doors are so health-giving and enjoyable, and a holiday should be a holiday. It is a very difficult question. After New Year work is usually in excess of the supply of nurses, but money melts during waiting times. Then thousands of people cannot afford a nurse in these hard times, and prefer to pay an inclusive fee for hospital accommodation (often below cost price) during sickness. Of course, sickness insurance for the middle classes is the only remedy, but we are so stodgy in meeting new conditions. What has been must be.

To quote the Medical Correspondent of the *Times*:—"Sufficient evidence is now available to warrant the statement that, unless December should prove more than usually unhealthy, the present will be the healthiest year in our history. During the whole course of the year to date the death-rate has never risen in any week above the exceedingly moderate figure of 13.5 per 1,000. It has averaged about 10.8 per 1,000 for the whole year. Such a figure is

unprecedented. There have this year been no serious epidemics of influenza, measles, scarlet fever, or diphtheria. The outbreak of summer diarrhoea, while slightly more marked than in 1922, was of a very slight character. Thus the infant death-rate is also very low. It is not yet possible to say whether or not this remarkable decline in mortality is of a permanent or merely temporary character."

Lambeth Board of Guardians have decided to spend £100 on hard tennis courts at Norwood Schools for the use of the nurses.

The frequent resignations of the nurses from the staff of Townley's Hospital, Bolton, was recently the cause of considerable discussion by the Board of Guardians, the immediate cause arising from a minute, sanctioning the payment to the nursing staff of £227 15s. 8d. for overtime worked during the three months ending September 30th.

Councillor J. Clayton objected to so much overtime, and favoured the engagement of a full staff. In reply to Mr. Hargreaves, who agreed that the hospital would be well advised to consider means of keeping their staff, the Chairman replied: "You can't stop them getting married, can you?"

Mrs. Jones, Chairman of a Sub-Committee appointed to investigate the matter, said: "There was no reason at all why some of the girls left. Some left very foolishly. There was nothing wrong with the heads of departments; if anything, they were too lax."

Mrs. Edwards probably gave the real reason when she said that "a great deal of the trouble with nurses was due to the fact that probationers came with a mistaken idea of nursing. They thought it was an easy life, and found it strenuous and sacrificing. Unless a girl had a good deal of grit she could not stand it. This was the reason, and she did not think it fair to cast reflections."

A thrilling act of daring is reported from Paris, in which Mlle. Collin, a hospital nurse, carried out, at the aerodrome of Issy-les-Moulineaux, France, an experiment designed to show that parachutes are of practical use on aeroplanes. Mlle. Collin jumped from an aeroplane at the height of 1,000 feet, and cut the cord of the parachute as she fell head first through space. The experiment was completely successful, the parachute opening perfectly and no shock being felt.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)