

NURSING ECHOES.

A Happy New Year to all our readers, and many thanks for kind wishes received of a mutual nature. 1924 will surely be a momentous year for the British people. Let us one and all serve our good King and our Beloved Country with heart and soul.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York are winning golden opinions from the community generally for the manner in which they perform their numerous public duties, and never, at any time, was it more necessary to protect members of the Royal Family from associating themselves with causes which the workers consider inimical to their interests and status. Thus we wonder who has invited the Duke and Duchess to associate themselves with a Charity Fancy Dress Ball, in aid of the Nation's Fund for Nurses and the Central Council for Child Welfare, to be held at Olympia on February 6th. Only a few years have passed since the Victory Ball was organised in aid of the Nation's Fund for Nurses at the Albert Hall, which became notorious owing to the tragic death of "Billy Carlton" and subsequent police proceedings. Both before and after this orgy the trained nurses' organisations protested in the press, and elsewhere, at being degraded as objects of charity through such a function, and we could have hoped the professional charity-mongers, and Society climbers, would have taken the expressed indignation of professional nurses to heart, and would have hesitated to drag our honoured profession into charity ball limelight again. Apparently we are still "a draw" to the frivolous public. Sir Arthur Stanley and Lady Cowdray, the chief officials of this objectionable Nation's Fund for Nurses, have no excuse for thrusting mendicancy upon our honourable profession, and we deeply regret that the names of the Duke and Duchess of York should be made use of in this connection.

If the Nation's Fund for Nurses expended the funds for the purpose for which they were given, instead of handing over thousands of pounds for the upkeep of the College of Nursing, Ltd., there would be no need for holding us up as objects of charity.

If the Central Council for Child Welfare is in need of funds let it obtain them off its own hook, and not use the name of the Nation's Nurses as a bait. The readers of this Journal are the Nation's Nurses, and are, we feel sure, in entire sympathy with these views.

In December last, at the Meeting of the Red Cross Council at St. James's Palace, Dame Maud McCarthy, Matron-in-Chief of the Territorial Army Nursing Service, received the Florence Nightingale Medal which some time previously had been awarded to her, and had the misfortune, immediately afterwards, to lose it. Up to the present all efforts to recover it have been unavailing. Dame Maud McCarthy's name is engraved on the back, and therefore anyone finding the medal can trace its owner with little trouble, even without seeing the advertisement in the press.

The Directors of the United Nursing Services Club, of 34, Cavendish Square, London, W.1, are offering

hospitality to nurses coming to this country from Overseas for the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley.

Any ladies who have served with the Forces in the Field will be admitted as Honorary Temporary Members of the Club for the duration of their stay in London, and will be given all the privileges of the Club without any entrance fee or subscription.

This hospitality will, we feel sure, be greatly appreciated, and the example of Imperial good feeling will no doubt be followed by other nurses' Clubs—in London and elsewhere. Nurses who were not privileged to serve our Army in the Field, who stayed at home and "kept the home fires burning," and a younger generation of nurses, are coming from many Dominions Overseas to visit the Empire Exhibition, and these colleagues should be warmly welcomed in London when they arrive, and shown every courtesy possible.

At the Headquarters of the National Council of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., professional callers will be welcomed from every country, and, as far as possible, help and information will be available to make their visit to the Exhibition as enjoyable as possible. Members of the Council able to spare time will be specially appointed for this bit of Imperial and international service at an early date.

The Christmas Party at Bart's on four nights this week, held in the historic Great Hall, was, as usual, a great success. At this function many old friends meet—some growing greyer year by year, but held by one another in affectionate remembrance. How long ago!—just 42 years—since the Party was inaugurated in 1882, and the guests were received by Sir Sydney Waterlow, the Treasurer, and the Matron, then Miss Manson; and how indignant was Mrs. Wardroper, then Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital, because the Matron of Bart's "wore white satin!" Those were the prehistoric times when Matrons did their rounds in bonnets and gloves, and to appear even in a simple white satin and lace gown at an evening social function bordered, we were told, on the "immoral."

The truth was "Bart's" had then been running, often in a rut, for upwards of seven hundred years, and the young Matron considered it psychologically sound to present a fresh aspect to view—people are so apt to accept a face value. In her opinion there was no reason for a hospital Matron and the Head of a Training School for Nurses, to be associated with bombazine and snuff.

The Mothercraft Training School, 29, Trebovir Road, Earl's Court, held its first Reunion of Students on Thursday evening, January 3rd.

The present Students provided a very amusing entertainment, which lasted about an hour, after which Lady Galway, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, gave a very short account of the new premises which have been secured at Highgate, and of the consequent great need the Society has of financial help. In closing, Lady Galway expressed the hope that they would all meet in the new Home next year.

A message was cabled to Dr. Truby-King, the Founder, and to Miss Pattrick, the first Matron,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)