

NURSING ECHOES.

The Queen gave great pleasure to the Nursing Staff and others when she opened the Queen Mary Hostel for Nurses at the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital on Monday last. The Hostel has cost £8,000, and Their Majesties the King and Queen have shown their practical interest in the £10,000 development scheme, which is being raised, by subscribing to it £100 and £50 respectively.

After presentations had been made Her Majesty unlocked the new building with a golden key, presented by Mr. C. F. Skipper, the architect, and declared it open, and later visited the wards of the hospital.

It may be recalled that the "Princess Mary of England Fund," established by the British colony in Finland to commemorate the marriage of Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, has been used to maintain a public health nurse in the Carelian parishes north of Lake Ladoga. Last August a portfolio containing photographs illustrating the health nurse's work in Carelia, and an account of the work done there, was forwarded to Princess Mary, who has expressed, through the British Legation, her great interest in the humanitarian work of General Mannerheim's League for Child Welfare.

As the nurse works on the Eastern border districts in Finland, *i.e.*, the region adjacent to Soviet territory, the Princess has sent her compliments to the nurse-in-charge for her courageous work.

After the recent visit of so many of our most progressive nurses to Finland, where everyone vied with one another to make them welcome and happy—news of nursing work there will be eagerly read in Great Britain.

October 12th, the tenth anniversary of the death of Edith Cavell, condemned to death in pursuance of the decision of a German Court Martial in Brussels, and shot the next morning at the Tir National, was observed by some of her friends in the prison of St. Gilles, where she had been imprisoned. *The Times* Correspondent writes:—

"The sad anniversary was solemnly celebrated in the prison chapel which had been decorated with British and Belgian flags. Mr. Billington Drake, First Secretary at the British Embassy, was present at the ceremony, for which 530 convicts were brought into the Chapel and took their places in the boxes, usually occupied by them during the Sunday services, which are so constructed that they are unable to see one another. In profound silence they listened to the addresses about the work of Miss Cavell and the nature of her sacrifice, delivered by the two prison professors, in French and Flemish. The two speeches were warmly applauded both by the assembled friends and the prisoners.

Lovely tributes of flowers were also placed at the foot of the statue of Edith Cavell in Trafalgar Square, London. Incidentally the question arises as to who is responsible for the subsequent removal of such wreaths

and flowers. Fresh flowers beautify a statue and testify to the living interest in the person represented, but withered wreaths give a neglected appearance greatly to be deplored, and if the public are permitted to deposit flowers some responsible authority should be liable for their removal as soon as they have served their purpose.

At the recent meeting of the Medical Missionary Advisory Board of the Conference of British Missionary Societies in Queen Victoria Street, the problem of Nursing Standards in Mission lands was discussed.

Dr. James L. Maxwell, General Secretary of the Medical Missionary Association of China, said that three-quarters of the membership of the Nurses Association of China was now Chinese, and it was they who desired a standard as high as in this country. The International Council of Nurses had been asked to hold its next meeting four years hence in China.

We are glad to note that the Medical Missionary Association is already well informed of this important matter, and we have no doubt the International will have all its sympathy and help when the time comes.

The Irish Nurses' Union, 29, South Anne Street, Dublin, which is carrying on a campaign in support of decent houses for the people, is circulating a leaflet on "Housing and Health," in which it states:—

Another aspect of the health side of the housing problem is that of suitable houses for the nurses who care for the sick. District Midwives whose lives are spent in attending on poor women, and who are expected to keep strict rules of cleanliness and hygiene, are compelled to live under bad conditions owing to the shortage of houses throughout the country.

The following are examples:—

Damp house in out-of-way position, earthen floor, cow-house attached, no sanitary accommodation except temporary dry closet put up by nurse herself.

North wall of house soaked all winter, flood bursts in at back door, no sewer to carry away water; no fireplace; no sanitary accommodation.

The Union asks:—

How can nurses be fit for their work, having to live under such conditions? Nurses, even more than other workers, need suitable, comfortable houses, with proper sanitary conveniences. They spend their lives contending with terrible conditions in the homes of the poor, and to recuperate their physical and mental health, they need comfort in their homes. Many of them have to live in lodgings, where they are not welcome at all, as people object to night disturbances, and midwifery nurses particularly are frequently called out at night.

The Irish Nurses' Union is seeking to arouse the local authorities and the Government to a sense of their responsibility in this matter of housing accommodation for District Midwives, as these nurses cannot carry out their duties to the poor so efficiently if they are living under such conditions as depicted in the above examples.

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