

NURSING ECHOES.

The present issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING carries with it our heartiest good wishes to all our readers at home and abroad for a seasonable Christmas and a very prosperous and happy New Year. Especially we are sure that those who attended the Congress at Helsingfors of the International Council of Nurses last July, will wish to convey to the nurses of the thirty-three nations who were present their cordial remembrances and greetings, and we have pleasure in conveying them through the medium of this Journal.

We desire to remind our readers that now is the time for the renewal of many subscriptions, and it will greatly assist the work in the B.J.N. Office if these are promptly sent. Again, the New Year is a time for good resolutions. Why should not one of them be to obtain at least one new subscriber for the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, the professional organ in this country of the National and International Councils of Nurses?

The wreaths and floral emblems sent by members of the Nursing Services and other organisations of Nurses as testimony to their loyalty and affection for Queen Alexandra, who always took a deep interest in their work were many. A number of nurses also were privileged to attend the Memorial Service in Westminster Abbey, among whom were noticeable chief Nursing Officers of the Naval and Military Services bearing Queen Alexandra's name. Dame Anne Beadsmore Smith, D.B.E., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief I.A.N.S., Miss McIntosh, C.B.E., R.R.C., and Miss Darbyshire, R.R.C., and Miss Cockrell, R.R.C., Principal Matrons; Miss E. S. Cooke, of King's College Hospital, representing the Unit of the 4th London General Hospital; Miss Watt, R.R.C., late Principal Matron of the 3rd Southern General Hospital; Miss Mary Forbes, A.R.R.C., representing the Royal British Nurses' Association; Dame Sarah Swift, representing the College of Nursing, Ltd., and others. Members of the Territorial Army Nursing Services were also present in uniform at the War Office (by kind invitation of the Assistant Under Secretary of State), to view the Funeral Procession from his balcony.

Miss F. M. Hodgins, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S., asks us to give prominence to the following information.

With reference to the Memorials to the Nursing Sisters of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service, its Reserves, and the Territorial Army Nursing Service, it is understood that the Kitchener Memorial Chapel will be dedicated on December 10th, 1925. Six tickets have been allotted to the Nursing Services, and will be given to members of different rank in the Services who will attend as representatives—the greater portion of the available space in St. Paul's Cathedral is we believe to be thrown open to the general public.

An inscription has been placed in the Kitchener Memorial Chapel on a tablet beneath the west window indicating that the figure of St. George is given by Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and the Territorial Army Nursing Service in memory of their comrades who gave their lives during the War, 1914-1918.

The Roll of Honour Book in connection with this memorial has been completed, dedicated and received by the Archdeacon of London on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's and was placed in the library of the Cathedral in January, 1924.

The Imperial Nurses' Club, 137, Ebury Street, S.W., celebrated its birthday in pleasant fashion on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday last, according to custom. The chief event was the presentation on Friday, November 27th, of a wireless set, on behalf of a number of subscribers, to the Honble. Lady Lyttelton, one of the Vice-Presidents, who received it on behalf of the Club. The whole work of installing was carried out by Messrs. Burndept & Co. free of cost. The firm also presented to Lady Lyttelton the model of an ear-phone, which, when unscrewed, was found to contain a suitably inscribed disc, and a duplicate was presented to the Club. Needless to say, the Superintendent, Miss C. H. Mayers, was a charming hostess, and it is interesting to know that the very excellent cook and the hall porter have been there since the Club first opened.

The Times has recently granted space for letters on nursing matters, and of course the serious shortage of suitable probationers is emphasised. The attitude of the influential daily press in for years excluding letters from the rank and file of the profession, and indeed from any one who ventured to criticise the Training Schools, has done more to kill the goose (the well-educated, sympathetic girl) who laid the golden egg—(selfless service to the sick)—than any other factor. Never has the press been more unanimous in any policy than that of suppressing nursing opinion. We have not yet forgotten the ignoble suppression of the demand by nurses for State Registration, a self-interested policy, persisted in by the leading London dailies, for upwards of a quarter of a century, greatly to the detriment of the public welfare, which it should be its first object to promote.

Writing in *The Times* under the heading "The Scarcity of Nurses," Miss Elizabeth S. Haldane expresses the opinion that "the dearth of suitable candidates for the nursing profession appears to me to arise mainly from a cause which should be dealt with by those responsible for the organisation of Training Schools." Then she points out a variety of disabilities which appear indigenous under Training School systems. Much physical strain, long hours, great responsibility, and of late years the demand for a much higher standard of intellectual work required from the nurse, whose functions in relation to the doctor have greatly altered; and the great strain of examinations to ill-prepared girls. "What is required," we are told, "is to realise the meaning of the new conditions, *i.e.*, that nursing is a great profession as well as a vocation, and to give the necessary time and opportunity for study."

We hope that invertebrate medical autocracy the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, will take such advice to heart, as administrator of the Nurses' Governing Body, under the Nurses' Registration Act, the G.N.C. responsible for prescribing by Rule the training of Nurses. This it has evaded in the most

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