

NURSING ECHOES.

A meeting in support of the Central Council for District Nursing in London will be held at the Mansion House on Thursday, October 13th, at 3.30, under the Presidency of the Lord Mayor, and the speakers will include Sir Kingsley Wood, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Health, the Archdeacon of London, Alderman Sir Charles Wakefield, Sir William Collins, and Miss Sybil Thorndike—good speakers in a good cause.

A Sister of Westminster Hospital has by her own efforts succeeded in collecting the sum of £600 for the perpetual endowment of a children's cot in the hospital. The cot has been dedicated to Sister Fisher, who died while in the service of the hospital, after giving 14 years' devoted service to the sick poor.

Lord and Lady Howard de Walden are lending Seaford House, Belgrave Square, for an important gathering in furtherance of the Queen Charlotte's Hospital Mother-Saving Campaign on Thursday, October 6th, and are giving an "At Home" in this connection.

The recently-issued report of the Ministry of Health has given additional and grave warning of the need for this Campaign. Maternal mortality is not decreasing. Revised official figures show that no fewer than 66,421 women died from this cause from 1911 to 1926. An average of more than 4,000 deaths a year.

These serious facts will be the subject of discussion at Seaford House, when it is hoped that a number of Mayors of London Boroughs, Medical Officers of Health, and employers of women will attend to consider what should be done to aid the Queen Charlotte's Hospital Mother-Saving Campaign.

The chair will be taken at this important gathering by Dr. T. Watts Eden, F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., and members of the new National Council of the Campaign will be present. There is a strong feeling that a Committee should be formed in every public health area.

The Campaign has for its object the raising of £250,000, with which new wards can be erected and an intensive study of the causes of maternal mortality can be carried on.

There are many nurses and midwives who hold Queen Charlotte's Hospital in affectionate regard, to whom the object of the campaign will warmly appeal.

A Congress under the auspices of the British Social Hygiene Council will be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, S.W., from Monday to Friday, October 3rd to 7th inclusive, when a number of important subjects of interest to nurses will be under consideration.

The *League News* of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses League just published is full of interesting news, excellently edited and produced, and the pictures of the Cloisters of the old Christ's Hospital, now demolished to make way for the new Surgical Block, will be prized by many Barts. nurses. The constantly increasing number of members is evident in the list of

their names and addresses which requires over 21 pages in small type, a splendid record.

Amongst the articles is a concise and interesting one by Miss MacCormac (Sister Matthew) on the International Council of Nurses at Geneva, in which she says:—

"The Interim Conference of the International Council of Nurses, 1927, flung high its colours through a successful session, forging another link to bind the world's nurses still more closely together. Looking round at the crowded meetings, where the nursing representatives were met in a common bond, one could not help a thrill of pride at belonging to this great sisterhood, and a knowledge of the tremendous power it holds in, and through, its great profession. As Dame Rachel Crowdy remarked later—'By women, for women, of women; not for themselves, but for the service of mankind.'"

The nurses at the London Hospital are for the first time to have badges in which the new Coat of Arms adopted by the Hospital will be incorporated.

St. Bartholomew's and St. Thomas' Hospitals have already their Coats of Arms, and the nurses of the former Hospital adopted this as their League Badge. One day perhaps the London Hospital Nurses will also have their League, which could be a very fine one.

An admirable article by Miss Beatrice Kent, F.B.C.N., Member of the Howard League of Penal Reform, on "Prisons and Prisoners in England," has been reprinted in pamphlet form from *Hospital Social Service*, U.S.A. Miss Kent writes:—

"In former times, when the minds of rulers were less enlightened, the main purpose of imprisonment was to punish the offenders. The main purpose now is to reform the character. The Prison Commissioners are enlightened men, and realise that by giving greater attention to the moral side of prison treatment, the protection of the public will automatically follow. . . .

"When one learns of the manifold causes which have led to detention in prison, one wonders how it is that we have not gone further in discrimination and wisdom in the treatment of prisoners. It is said that the effect of sleeping sickness on some people is *intermittent instability*, which, of course, means that they are at times irresponsible for their actions. Such people, therefore, must be regarded as two-fold victims, and some place—other than prison—should be found for them. I could tell of such a victim in one of our prisons, a *nice—not* a bad lad."

And while we gladly recognise that the Prison Nursing Service is a big step in the right direction, we must also realise that it is only partial. It is seldom that those who have been inmates of prisons have the power to record their observations, and for this reason an article on "Gaul Dramas of Life and Death," by Horatio Bottomley, in the *Weekly Dispatch* of September 25th, should be read by those interested in the care of the sick in prisons. The writer asserts that "there is no hospital treatment, and there is no nursing in the true sense in the hospital in Maidstone Goal," and gives some poignant instances in support of his statement. We believe that the work of the nurses of the Prison

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)