

### NURSING ECHOES.

Hearty good wishes, cards, flowers, and presents wishing a gay Christmas time and all happiness in the New Year, have been the fortunate lot of the Editors of this JOURNAL, for which, dear Colleagues, many and very sincere thanks.

The Editors now take the opportunity of wishing you all the compliments and success possible in this season of new opportunities.

We are looking forward to 1927 with its great prospects of professional unity, enlightened comradeship, and economic organisation. Never before has the Nursing Profession in the United Kingdom had such far-reaching chances of professional responsibility and therefore such chances of fine performance. We may now stand upright on our own feet, facing a wonderful future: it is ours to make good and we shall do it. It should be the ambition of every highly trained Registered Nurse to add F.B.C.N. to her descriptive letters S.R.N., and help to forward efficiency, and uphold the honour of her high calling—second to none in usefulness to humanity and satisfaction to self. Let 1927 be a record year in giving of all that is best in us to those less fortunate than ourselves. Thus we attain heights of happiness unknown to those of circumscribed vision and lovers of material things.

"I am pleased and gratified by the good work carried on by your Committee, and gratefully appreciate all that has been done. I wish you continued success.—MARY R."

This was the message from the Queen received by the Duke of Portland when he was presiding at the annual meeting of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, held (by permission of Major the Hon. John and Lady Violet Astor) at 18, Carlton House Terrace.

The Duke recalled that it was only just over a year since Queen Alexandra passed away, and said he thought it appropriate that he should repeat the last public message sent by Queen Alexandra, which was read by him at the last annual meeting of the Institute, and in which her Majesty referred to the vital national importance of the work and spoke of the cause as being very near to her heart.

The work of Queen's Nurses is one of our great national assets—do not let us forget three thousand more of these devoted women are urgently required to meet the needs of the population.

The King Edward's Hospital Fund has distributed this year the splendid sum of £284,750, and a good slice will benefit nurses in training—as some £8,000 has been specially donated for the improvement of Nurses' Homes.

At the last meeting of the Nursing Committee of University College Hospital, W.C., it was reported that a sum of £100 5 per cent. War Loan has been given by Sir Thomas Butler, K.C.V.O., to the Hospital, for the purpose of providing a prize of books to be awarded annually to the nurse who gains the highest percentage of marks for practical work in the wards. Sir Thomas

Butler has always taken the keenest interest in the progress and welfare of the nurses of University College Hospital, and was for many years the Chairman of the Nursing Committee.

In these days, when so much value is placed on examination results, it is particularly gratifying to know that a high percentage of marks gained for good work in the wards will be so well rewarded.

We have already received several enquiries from those desirous of attending the Interim Conference of the International Council of Nurses to be held at Geneva from July 27th to 30th, 1927. The main topic for discussion is to be "Principles and Methods of Practical Nursing," which covers a wide field of usefulness. We are hoping the programme will be procurable in plenty of time, and that those wishing to take part will have time and opportunity available. Short Papers and plenty of Discussion make for a Conference success. We hope this system will be in force, as nothing is more wearisome than to sit listening to interminable papers with no time secured to put forward bright criticism and ideas. No Paper should take longer to deliver than 20 minutes, and it should be possible for speakers to make their points in ten minutes' discussion. Compressed packets of valuable ideas should be opened, and scattered around. The Chair should determinedly suppress bores and platitudes. Men are worse offenders in this sense than women, especially when they are addressing an audience of women on their own affairs. Once we listened at an International Nursing Conference to an address from a "Herr Doctor" of upwards of three hours' duration, in a foreign tongue! and when we ventured to whisper the necessity for a time limit were indignantly asked if we preferred "soulless snippets?" "Indeed yes, any sort of snippets" we replied. Let there be time for plenty of snippets at Geneva we pray.

Miss F. Meyboom, formerly Matron of the great Municipal Hospital at Rotterdam, who, it will be remembered, read so admirable a paper on "The Relationships of the School of Nursing to the Hospital," at the Helsingfors Congress, and Miss Van Ditmar, engaged in Public Health Nursing in Holland, recently paid a visit to 431, Oxford Street, the Headquarters of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. These ladies are keenly interested in Nursing organisations, from the National and International aspects, and as the office at 431, Oxford Street was for a quarter of a century placed freely at the disposal of the International Council of Nurses, it has become a habit of members of Affiliated Associations all over the world to gravitate there when visiting London.

They were shown the bureau where Miss L. L. Dock worked so strenuously and happily in building up the I.C.N. from its inception, and also the bureau, with the complete file of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, now the property of The British College of Nurses, the beautiful illuminated address, presented to the President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain with an exquisitely bound copy of the first Register, after the passing of the Nurses' Registration Acts, and other things of historical interest, all of which interested them greatly.

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