

NURSING ECHOES.

The Fairy Godmother of the nurses at the Middlesex Hospital has been busy of late, and at the Annual Court of Governors recently held at the hospital, Prince Arthur of Connaught, who presided, announced an anonymous gift of £160,000 for a hostel for the nursing staff, to be erected on a site adjoining the hospital.

In making the announcement His Royal Highness said that the Board recognised that any worthy scheme of development must provide a complete and most up-to-date hostel and training school for nurses. At present the nurses were housed in five separate buildings. That arrangement could not give the necessary comfort and facilities for instruction, recreation, and social intercourse. A consideration of all the advantages to be gained had prompted a splendid gift of no less than £160,000 from a large-hearted benefactor, who, however, desired to remain anonymous. That gift would make provision for the first section of the hostel, with about 180 bedrooms and refectory and recreation accommodation for the full *personnel* ultimately to be lodged in it. The donation had relieved the anxiety of the Governors with regard to one of the most essential portions of the new hospital. A condition of the gift was that it should not rank as part of the General Reconstruction Fund, but should constitute a special Nurses' Hostel Fund, and any interest accruing from investments should be added to that fund. The gift was unique, and they were overcome with gratitude to the large-hearted, and modest donor, and with admiration of his public spirit. The gift had been inspired solely by the good offices of Mr. A. E. Webb-Johnson, Surgeon to the Hospital and Treasurer of the Medical School.

We like and respect the anonymity of the donor.

We know that a number of Members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain hope to attend the Interim Conference of the International Council of Nurses at Geneva in July, and we hope they will study the announcements as to arrangements on page 91 of this issue. It will be noticed that Miss Reimann asks that those who are expecting to attend the Conference should communicate as soon as possible with the offices of their respective National Councils.

We have pleasure in announcing that Miss Carson Rae, whose organising powers are well known, has kindly offered to arrange a party to attend the Conference. Will those who desire to travel with a group write to Miss Carson Rae, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., without delay, so that arrangements may be put in hand at once?

Increasing vigilance in relation to the care and administration of drugs is the lesson of two recent incidents. The first, resulting in tragedy, occurred in a Chicago Hospital, where a nurse gave five babies a mild dose of an antiseptic instead of distilled water. All five of the babies died in convulsions within a few hours, their

mothers being in an adjoining ward. Again, a midwife was recently cited before the Central Midwives' Board in this country for carrying in her midwifery equipment a bottle of Lysol, labelled Ergot, and for leaving the bottle so incorrectly labelled for the use of her successor without any warning of its true contents. Such gross carelessness cannot be condoned.

Before the regular business of the meeting of the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute held recently at 58 Victoria Street, S.W., at which Sir Harold Boulton presided, the Marchioness of Titchfield presented long-service badges for 21 years' service as Queen's Superintendents or nurses to the following:—

Grace H. Vaughan (nursing superintendent for England), Dorothy Godden (superintendent of Brighton D.N. Association), Alice Holmes (superintendent of Oxford D.N. Association), Elizabeth M. Dunn (Queen's nurse at Sheerness), Ethel Cole (Queen's nurse at Swaffham), Eveline Higgs (Queen's nurse at Sheffield), Ellen L. Wells (Queen's nurse at Winchester).

Long-service badges were also awarded to the following, who were not present:—

Louisa Trinham (superintendent of Darlington D.N. Association), Margaret A. James (Queen's nurse at Keynsham), Jennie Younger (Queen's nurse at Carlisle), Rachel A. Thorburn (Queen's nurse, Scottish Branch), Ada B. Weir (Queen's nurse, Scottish Branch).

Sir Harold Boulton was re-elected chairman, and Sir William Hale-White vice-chairman for the ensuing year.

The new charter, making provision for an enlargement of the objects of the Institute, was approved. The many developments in public health work since the last supplemental charter in 1904 have made this desirable. An alteration will also be made in the name of the Institute so that it may describe more accurately the work it undertakes by nursing the people in their own homes. The report showed that there were 2,593 Queen's nurses working in connection with the Institute, and that the number of affiliated nursing associations was 1,373.

The Ranyard Nurses—the Nursing Branch of the Ranyard Mission—have now been working amongst the poor for nearly sixty years, for they were established in 1868, and, as we record in another column, Agnes Jones, the pioneer of workhouse nursing reform, for a time was one of their number. The Office and Hostel are at Ranyard House, 25, Russell Square, W.C.1, and the staff consists of 63 Nurses in charge of Districts, 17 working at School Treatment Centres, and 7 Supernumerary Nurses always employed.

Four Superintending Sisters visit the nurses in their districts and report regularly to Ranyard House on their work and health. During the year the Nurses have visited 11,165 cases, and paid 255,979 visits.

The *Poor-Law Officers' Journal* reports that the Leicester, Northants and Rutland Branch of the National Poor-Law Officers' Association, Incorporated, at a recent

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