

NURSING ECHOES.

Miss Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., Matron, and the Nursing Staff of the Kent County Mental Hospital, Maidstone, are gratified and proud that Her Royal Highness Princess Mary Viscountess Lascelles continues to take an interest in the Nurses Home connected with the Hospital, which she opened last year, and has graciously presented to it a signed photograph of herself, which has been placed in a prominent position in the Silence Room. The Princess also sent Miss Macaulay a Christmas Card, as did the Mayor and Mayoress of Maidstone (Councillor and Mrs. F. R. Connor).

The beautiful Home is, as we anticipated, meeting a long-felt need. The Nursing Staff take great pride in it, and the facilities it affords for teaching purposes under the direction of the Matron, and the Sister Tutor, Miss C. A. Ruark, S.R.N. (who has recently passed the Examination of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, qualifying her for admission to the Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses, and also, with distinction, that of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association). The opportunities afforded in the Home for quiet study are greatly appreciated. At the October Examination of the G.N.C., out of 19 candidates sent up 15 were successful.

The Nursing Staff are fortunate in the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, Dr. Wolseley Lewis, well known for his liberal-minded and progressive views, which are shared by the other members of the medical staff. With such sympathetic co-operation between the Medical Superintendent and Matron, and the advantages they had secured for the Nursing Staff, the latter should set a very high standard in the Mental Nursing World.

Over two thousand pounds have so far been subscribed in response to the appeal for the Central Council of District Nursing in London launched at a Mansion House meeting on October 13th, under the presidency of Sir Rowland Blades. Just over £80 was contributed in small sums by persons in all parts of the country who "listened in" to the advocacy of the movement by Lady Blades one Sunday evening as "The week's good cause."

The object of the movement is to extend district nursing in and near London, and to retain its voluntary principle, the sole test of eligibility for help being necessity. The Chairman of the Council is Sir William J. Collins and Sir Thomas Barlow is Vice-Chairman. The offices of the Council are in Cockspur Street, Pall Mall.

Miss M. F. Steele, R.R.C., Secretary of the United Nursing Services Club, Ltd., 34, Cavendish Square, London, W., writes regretting that, through an error, the Fifth Annual Report upon which we commented in our last issue, should have been supplied to us, instead of the Sixth, recently published, and asking us to comment on this, which we have pleasure in doing. The Report is most satisfactory, and the Directors state that they are very gratified to be able to state that the past year's working of the Club has proved very successful, a profit of £762 14s. 10d. having resulted.

Out of this the Directors propose to write off the expenditure prior to opening of the Club, amounting to £580 9s. 9d., leaving a balance carried forward of £202 15s. 2d.

The membership has increased to 1,205, and subscriptions for the year amounted to £1,976 1s., compared with £1,893 1s. for the previous year.

It is a report upon which the Directors, Shareholders and Secretary are to be congratulated.

As we notified in our last issue the British Legion is arranging a great Pilgrimage to the Battlefields to take place from August 5th to 8th, 1928. The Legion hopes that 10,000 men and women will take part in this Pilgrimage.

Various parties are being organised, amongst them being an ex-Service Women's Party, and it is hoped that many Nurses who served during the War will be able to join that party.

The Matron-in-Chief of the Territorial Force Nursing Service asks us to notify the members that the total cost of the Pilgrimage is £4 5s., of which 5s. must be paid as a deposit and sent to the British Legion Headquarters together with a Registration Form duly completed.

Registration Forms for completion by ex-Service Nurses of the Territorial Army Nursing Service desirous of joining this Pilgrimage should be obtained from Miss Goodhue, R.R.C., at c/o The Matron-in-Chief, T.A.N.S., The War Office, Caxton House West, Tothill Street, S.W.1., and when completed returned to her together with the 5s. registration fee, for transmission to the British Legion Headquarters.

During the tour all Pilgrims will gather together for a great march, which was to have been past the late Field-Marshal Earl Haig, at Ypres, and a service will be held at the Menin Gate Memorial. Many War zones and cemeteries will be visited.

Any further particulars required by ex-Service Territorial Nurses can be obtained from either Miss Goodhue, or direct from British Legion Headquarters.

By the death of Mrs. G. F. Sheppard, in her ninety-second year, there is removed one who took a deep interest in nursing in India, and did much to promote it. In 1861 she married Mr. Sheppard, of the Bombay Civil Service, whom she only survived a few months, and accompanied him to India where the greater part of her life was thenceforth spent. From the first she took the keenest interest in hospital and nursing work, and the reorganisation of the nursing arrangements of the Sassoon Maternity Hospital in Poona was largely due to her. In 1887 she founded the Up-country Nursing Association in India which 20 years later was incorporated with Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association. A recent report of that Association records that "Mrs. Sheppard may be considered as the true pioneer of private nursing in India."

The *Information Bulletin* of the League of Red Cross Societies, 12, Avenue Velasquez, Paris VIII., gives the interesting information that on November 26th the *Association des Dames francaises* (French Red Cross) celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of

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