

### NURSING ECHOES.

The names of the medical men attending upon His Majesty the King are eagerly scanned; and his subjects find some comfort in the fact that they include those in whom the public justly have confidence. But we never before remember the names of the nurses in attendance on a Royal Personage being published with those of his medical attendants, and we congratulate the Nursing Profession on this recognition.

A new precedent has thus been created by the publication of the names of these nurses and the hospitals at which they were trained.

Is this because since the passing of the Nurses' Registration Acts, Nursing, like Medicine, is a recognised profession? The nurses who have the privilege and honour of nursing His Majesty in his present serious illness are Nurse Nettie May Purdie, S.R.N. (Westminster Hospital), Nurse Black and Nurse Davies (London Hospital), and Nurse Elizabeth A. Gordon (St. Thomas' Hospital).

As the Christian names of these nurses were not given in the Press, we applied to the London Hospital, and to the institution to which two of them belong as to their professional status, but, as information was refused from the London Hospital, we are unable to verify whether or no they are on the State Register. Nor does the name of Miss Elizabeth A. Gordon appear upon the Register, but we find the name of Miss Nettie May Purdie.

We have drawn attention to these facts because the Nurses Registration Acts have now been in force for nine years, and we consider it the duty of the medical profession in recommending nurses to their patients to be as careful in regard to their legal status as they are in association with members of their own profession.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, with its constantly increasing circle of readers, finds its way to the four corners of the earth, and before this issue reaches some of them Christmas, 1928, will be a thing of the past.

But if our Christmas good wishes only reach some of our readers the open pages of the New Year lie fair before us, and we wish to inscribe on each and all our heartiest good wishes for friends at home and abroad. Throughout the Empire, and in foreign lands, each has a place in our thoughts and affectionate regards, to each we wish congenial work, and joy in its performance, and to those whose working days are over "an eve untouched by shadows of decay," and "light at evening tide."

Very specially also do we send warm good wishes to the young members of the Nursing Profession, just entering upon a career which, more than any other, if they have found their true vocation, is full of promise of happiness. Happiness in its living interest, for the joy of nursing is that it is concerned not with mechanical things, but with humanity, and humanity at a time when it is responsive in a peculiar degree to kindness and tenderness, and sensitive to the sympathy which it is the privilege of nurses to give discreetly and wisely.

Further, the opportunities for service at the present day are almost unlimited, and the closer comradeship

of preventive and curative nursing offers an element of hopefulness which is bracing and inspiring.

For the section of our profession engaged in nursing the sick in mind, we send an especial greeting, for, as their work is probably the most difficult, so it is a most satisfactory branch of nursing, for no patients are more dependent upon good nursing, either for their immediate well being, or their ultimate recovery, than the mentally sick.

Lastly, may we remind all our readers that the duty every nurse owes to her profession is to endeavour in some degree to advance its welfare, and for this purpose to join a Professional Organisation through which she can work in association with others to this end.

The Editor wishes to thank all those who have sent her such kind letters and gifts of flowers during the past weeks. She is sorry that, owing to her serious illness, she has been unable to see many callers, but she hopes that by the time another JOURNAL is issued, she may have been permitted to leave her bed and to see a few friends.

In expressing her thanks for the lovely flowers which have beautified her room she would like to express her belief that their beauty and their scent have a real curative power in addition to being a constant joy.

In a long life we have found that gifts and kind actions have much more effect, and give more pleasure to both giver and receiver, when they come into contact with one another.

We are all well aware of the suffering at the present time through lack of work in the coalfields, and every one must wish to do something to mitigate this suffering. Its saddest phase is that many miners, and their stalwart sons—for the occupation is one in which families are engaged from generation to generation—who are willing and anxious to work, cannot get employment for more than one or two days a week, resulting in only a pittance of wages.

Nurses who are so happily engaged at this season in hard work, and in bringing happiness to others, will realize the misery of enforced idleness to these miners and those dependent upon them whom ordinarily it is their pleasure to support.

The Editor knows of two very deserving families in the Durham coalfields who, with the assistance of her readers, might be provided with hampers which would assure their happiness on Christmas Day. One a father and mother and four children, and the other also with several children.

Upon enquiry she finds that the sort of banquet which would really give the greatest satisfaction for a Christmas Dinner would be a leg of pork, a plum pudding, an iced cake, figs, dates, fruit, goodies, and crackers.

It is proposed to buy the pork, and should any of the readers of the JOURNAL desire to contribute in cash or in kind to help to fill the hampers, will they be good enough to send their contributions by the morning of Thursday, December 20th, to Miss M. Breay, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Office, 39, Portland Place, London, W., and also to send a postcard previously, to say what may be expected. If more is received than will fill the two hampers then the good work can

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)