

NURSING ECHOES.

No member of the Royal Family pays greater homage to the Nursing Profession than H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught, chairman of the Board of the Middlesex Hospital. In presiding recently at an extraordinary meeting of the Court of Governors, His Royal Highness said, referring to the splendid response to the appeal for funds to build a new Nurses' Home:

Q "At an early stage we realised that one of our main anxieties would be the satisfactory housing of the nursing staff when the new hospital was built, for the site of the old Nurses' Home had to be encroached on in order to provide the space necessary to give essential light and air to the new wards. I know how you were all thrilled by the announcement that an anonymous donor had undertaken to build the first section of a new Nurses' Home and by the gift of £200,000 enabled us to free the main hospital island site for the treatment of patients. You can imagine, therefore, my feelings of gratitude and delight when during my voyage home from Africa last month I learnt by wireless that our anonymous benefactor had promised a further £100,000, so that the whole nursing staff could be housed in the new home. This new home will not only provide living accommodation for the nurses, but will also provide for their recreation. Besides the usual recreation rooms there will be a tennis court, a Badminton court, and, it is hoped, a swimming bath.

"This gift of £300,000 has moved me more deeply than I can express. It is not only one of the most generous and noble gifts from an individual which have been made to a hospital in the history of this great city and country, but it is a tribute to a body of women who have always been foremost in their sacrifices for the sick and suffering."

As we all know, Charing Cross Hospital stands on almost priceless ground, so that the long debated question of providing adequate accommodation for the nursing staff has been solved by the purchase by the Hospital Committee of a large property on Haverstock Hill, Hampstead, at the corner of England's Lane, known as St. Mary's Convent, as the site of a new hostel for the nurses.

The new hostel will be convenient of access from Charing Cross, being midway between Chalk Farm and Belsize Park Stations of the Hampstead "tube" railway. It is within a few minutes' walk of Primrose Hill and Regent's Park to the south, and Hampstead Heath and Parliament Hill can be easily reached on the north.

For openness of situation and suitability in other ways, the site that has been acquired at Haverstock Hill is probably the best from every point of view that could have been bought north of the hospital within a like distance.

The Health Committee of the London County Council reports that it received 93 applications for the new position of Matron-in-Chief. Eight candidates were selected for interview. In compliance with the provision of standing order 95 they submitted the names of three candidates to the Council, those of Miss D. E. Bannon, Miss M. Hogg, C.B.E., and Miss M. C. Tisdale—and

recommended Miss Bannon for the post, who was duly elected by the Council. Miss Bannon was trained at St. Thomas's Hospital, and was Matron of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, from 1922 to 1928.

The principal duties attaching to the position will consist in organizing and supervising the nursing staff at the hospitals and infirmaries which will be transferred under the Local Government Act, 1929, from the Metropolitan Asylums Board and the Guardians of the Poor and also the School Nursing Staff at present in the Council's service.

The new Local Government Board Act is full of pitfalls for future administrators, and standards of nursing is amongst them. Let us hope that close and sympathetic interchange of views may, for the benefit of the nursing profession at large, be established between the General Nursing Council and the London County Council's Nursing Department. We are still awaiting the prescribed scheme of training, to qualify for examination and registration, under the Nurses' Registration Act. It is long overdue.

In our last issue we reported that fifteen letters written and signed by Miss Florence Nightingale were for sale.

The British College of Nurses secured one at £5, and Miss Cochrane bought one for the School of Nursing at Charing Cross Hospital, and three are being held on offer to the Nightingale School of Nurses at St. Thomas's Hospital. Miss Breay took ten of these letters to Montreal where they were offered at £5 each, and with their usual enthusiasm for the Nightingale tradition, the Americans were eager to acquire them, one was bought by Miss Potter, to be presented by her to the Rhode Island Hospital Training School, at Providence; and Miss Isabel Stewart, Professor of Nursing at Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York, bought the other nine—to be distributed to various nursing schools—so that £50 was at once offered for these most invaluable mementoes of the great Founder of scientific nursing. It appears to us a great pity that the nurses present at Montreal from the Dominions did not each secure a Nightingale letter, so that future British Nurses throughout the Empire might have become familiar with her very distinguished handwriting and beautiful signature.

We understand that the number and representative character of the Delegation from Great Britain to the meeting of the International Council in Montreal gave great pleasure to our Canadian colleagues. Especially were they pleased to entertain Miss Lloyd-Still, and very welcome also were Miss Musson, Miss Villiers, Miss Cox-Davies, Miss Welch, Miss Jones of Liverpool, Miss Drakard, and, of course, Mrs. Strong.

Spain so far has not progressed in the establishment of lay Nurse Training Schools, as we understand them. There are, of course, various reasons for this, first religion, the nuns having so far, as in most Roman Catholic countries, undertaken the duty of nursing the sick to the best of their uninstructed ability. The spirit of modern nursing is, however, awakening the

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