

## NURSING ECHOES.

There is little news when we scan our daily papers nowadays as to the health of the King, which means, we hope and believe, that "no news is good news," and that His Majesty's progress towards complete restoration to health is uninterrupted.

Miss Helen L. Pearse, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., who for thirty-two years has held the position of Superintendent of Nurses under the London County Council, during which time the staff of School Nurses has been largely increased, is retiring at the beginning of this month, and her friends and colleagues are arranging a Dinner in her honour on Saturday, November 2nd, at the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, of which she is a Vice-Chair. Those who desire to be present on this occasion should communicate with the Secretary of the R.B.N.A., Miss Isabel Macdonald, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., for further information. Miss Pearse's professional career, both in relation to her work under the L.C.C. and in relation to the organisation of the nursing profession, has been both successful and honourable, and we are glad to know that its exceptional character is to be suitably recognised by her colleagues.

A very interesting (if somewhat sad) ceremony took place at the County Hall, London, on September 27th, when a presentation was made to Miss H. L. Pearse, of a portable wireless set, a Carlton easy chair and a cheque, upon her retirement from the Council's service.

In the absence of Dr. F. N. Kay Menzies, the Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, from whom a letter was read expressing his deep regret that a prior engagement prevented his attendance, the presentation was made by the Chief Clerk of the Public Health Department. In the course of his remarks to the large company present, Mr. Day referred to the enormous growth and development of school nursing work since Miss Pearse's appointment as Superintendent in 1907, which could be gauged from the fact that at that time the School Nursing Staff consisted of 32 nurses as compared with the present staff of 360.

After expressing the loss on official and personal grounds the department would sustain by her retirement, Mr. Day wished Miss Pearse, on behalf of all present many years of health and happiness.

One of the senior Medical Officers of the L.C.C., Dr. F. C. Shrubbsall, followed, and referred to the happy relations which had always existed between Miss Pearse and the Medical Staff of the Public Health Department. In his experience, officers upon retirement renewed their youth and he trusted Miss Pearse would prove no exception.

In the course of a brief reply, Miss Pearse, who spoke with obvious feeling, referred to the kindness which had been shown her by all ranks during the course of her official career. The place she had chosen to which to retire was, she said, not a great distance from London, and she hoped that she would not be entirely cut off from those with whom she had been so

happily associated in official life. Upon leaving the company, she was accorded an ovation, "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow."

The Sports Club of the Croydon General Hospital has had a very successful season, to which the fine weather contributed.

Several keenly contested tennis matches were arranged at home and away, and much interest was taken in the Open Singles Tournament, played for the Challenge Cup presented by the Matron, Miss C. L. Keys-Wells. This was won by Miss Doris Webb after some good matches.

It is hoped to see many old nurses at the Tennis Club Dance on Thursday, November 14th, particulars of which can be obtained from the Secretary of the Tennis Club, Miss E. Dickson, at the Hospital.

In the old days private nurses usually took their holidays when the doctors and well-to-do patients were out of London—in September and October. Now they choose June, July and August, and are disappointed to find work slack, as it must be, in the following months.

Of course, summer is holiday time, and long summer days are very tempting, but you can't eat your cake and have it too—this should be realised. Co-operations were refusing cases to the end of August this year, and now, alas, the Hostels are unable to accommodate nurses.

It would appear from the discussions on Private Nursing at Montreal that the same conditions pertain in large cities all the world over. New York calculates to have a nine months' year in this branch of work, as everyone who possibly can flees the city during the summer heat.

We are glad to hear that the Private Nurses' League, inaugurated by Miss Isabel Macdonald, is arousing interest and support. We wish it all success, as the day is passing when members of a profession can stand alone and receive the respect and status which is their due. They must help themselves, and help others.

Nurses are more and more becoming conscious that the care of their patients in regard to physical ills is only a part of the attention they need, if the best results are to be achieved, and realise that, in the study of psychology, they will find much that is helpful to them in their work. To such nurses the course of six lectures on "The Place of Psychology in General Nursing," by Dr. Isabel G. H. Wilson, D.P.M., which will be given at the Tavistock Square Clinic for Functional Nervous Disorders, 51, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, should prove of great interest. These lectures begin on Thursday, October 3rd, at 6.30 p.m., and will be continued on succeeding Thursdays. On October 24th the lecture on "Psychological Help in Linked Symptoms of Body and Mind" will include the following illustrations: Anxiety and Palpitation; Worry and Indigestion; Constipation and Depression; Fear and Diarrhoea; Sepsis and Confusion; Excitement and Pyrexia. Nurses can no doubt, from their own observation, link other symptoms of body and mind. The

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