

NURSING ECHOES.

Good wishes, lovely flowers, beautiful cards, calendars and many other expressions of good will, from far and near, contributed to surround the Editor with the atmosphere of peace and happiness which we associate with the Christmas season, and for which, through this Journal, she desires to express her sincere and grateful thanks, and to assure her colleagues that she keenly appreciates them all.

She also desires to thank all those who have sent invitations to the Journal to participate in the Christmas and New Year's parties which contribute so much to the happiness and gaiety at this season of patients, guests, and also of the medical and nursing staffs of hospitals who, in spite of their busy professional lives manage to develop a surprising amount of dramatic and musical talent at this season, and to add greatly to the enjoyment and hilarity of Christmas entertainments thereby. We regret that in a monthly journal it is impossible to report in detail these happy and most enjoyable festivities.

The opening of the new Recreation Rooms in connection with Queen Mary's Home for St. Bartholomew's Nurses, London, by the Lord Mayor at the Hospital on January 17th, will fulfil the hopes of many generations of Bart's Nurses. The present nursing staff are greatly to be congratulated on this acquisition to their quarters.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, it was reported that careful consideration is being given to the Ministry of Health proposals for reform in Local Government, so far as they seem to concern the work of the Institute and its affiliated associations. Fourteen nursing associations have been affiliated since October, and the names of 97 nurses placed on the Roll of Queen's Nurses.

In our September issue we referred to the decision of the Metropolitan Asylums Board to accept in the future, as a qualification for the position of Sister in the Children's Service, nurses who are registered in the Supplementary Part of the State Register without training in the nursing of adults, since which time a united protest upon the part of the Matrons who were responsible for the nursing of the sick in these hospitals for infectious diseases has been before the whole Board, with the result that the Matrons have been notified that the Managers will not rescind their decision.

We anticipate that further action will be taken on this degradation of nursing standards by this lay board who, in acting in opposition to the expert opinion of the Matrons of the Board's hospitals, are compelling them to have placed in authority nurses who are not completely trained and qualified for their duties, and the Board, though not unanimously, have overruled the considered opinion of their own senior nursing officers on this very important nursing question. The Local Government Bill now before Parliament proposes to abolish the Metropolitan Asylums Board; our advice, therefore, to the Matrons of the Board's hospital staff, in which the public has every right to

feel confidence, is not to be discouraged by the present reactionary decision, but to unite to bring their conscientious convictions before the new authority to whom they will be responsible, should the Bill become law.

The Report of the Imperial Nurses' Club, 137, Ebury Street, S.W.1, which celebrated its anniversary from November 24th–November 29th, records that during the year beds to the number of 8,555 have been made up and meals served to the number of 16,002, which shows that the staff has not been idle and that visitors have not been lacking; 2,958 letters have been received and 2,530 sent out.

As usual the causes which have brought visitors to the Club have been very varied. The larger number have been members of the Profession awaiting posts.

It is a great happiness to the Hon. Secretary, Miss C. H. Mayers, and to the Management of the Club, that when members of the Profession arrive home from distant parts of the Empire, they turn for a welcome (and a bed) to the Club which has dared to call itself "Imperial." "These visitors," says Miss Mayers, "enlarge our views and awaken us to interests wider than those immediately in front of us.

"When we have excited visitors from the country who come to spend a week of their precious holiday in seeing London; when young Nurses are sent by Matrons to stay with us during those nightmare days of examinations, or when a Nurse comes to see a friend off to some distant part of the world—or better still to welcome one home—we are shaken out of the self-centred view of life which is liable to possess us all and are given a glimpse of the infinity of interests surrounding us; possibly we are allowed to go further and to perceive that we have something to contribute to the help of those with whom we have been brought in contact.

The same stimulating effect is gained from having Nurses of other nationalities staying at the Club."

Bermondsey Guardians have agreed to the erection of a new house for the matron of their hospital at Rotherhithe at a total cost of £2,350. A grass tennis court will be relaid. The Ministry of Health has approved of the scheme.

Six nurses sat for the Diploma in Nursing during the past year, and on December 22nd, at the Degree Ceremony of the University of Leeds, the Vice-Chancellor received the successful candidates and conferred the Diploma in Nursing, presenting them with their certificates. The three successful candidates were Miss Mary Eira Jones and Miss Kathleen Vyvyan Harrison, who passed the examination in June, and Miss Alice Eden, who passed the examination in December. All three trained at the Leeds General Infirmary.

Miss Eira Jones is now Sister at the Mansfield and District Hospital, Mansfield, Notts, Miss Alice Eden Sister of a Children's Ward at the Leeds General Infirmary, and Miss Vyvyan Harrison has successfully passed the examination for Health Visitors, after taking the Course at the Leeds University, and is now

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)