

NURSING ECHOES.

On May 1st, 1881, Miss Ethel G. Manson (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) entered St. Bartholomew's Hospital as Matron and Superintendent of Nursing, and a group of her colleagues in the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, realising that her "Barts." Jubilee took place on May 1st, 1931, offered her hospitality in recognition of the event. Whilst sincerely appreciating their generosity of feeling and the great honour such an occasion would be, she preferred that there should be no Jubilee demonstration at the present time.

Mrs. Fenwick wishes, however, to express her delight at receiving on May 1st the really glorious bouquet of roses tied with black and white ribbons, the colours of Royal Barts., with the following inscription headed by the hospital arms:—

"With congratulations and best wishes on the 50th Anniversary of your appointment as Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, from the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, May 1st, 1931."

Fifty years! It seems but yesterday; yet what changes have taken place in this flashing space of time! Some day we mean to publish a few reminiscences of "Great Days," and the 1st of May, 1881, will certainly be included; every hour and personality with which we came in touch is clearly impressed on our memory. Alas! all those who gave us so kind a welcome have passed away!

The annual meeting of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing was held at the Hotel Victoria on April 28th. The Duke of Portland, the President, was in the chair, and he was supported by Sir Harold Boulton (chairman of the Council).

The Duke of Portland read the following message from the Queen, the Patron of the Institute:—

"I hear with keen interest that the annual meeting of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, of which you are President, is being held to-day. I would be glad if you would assure those who are present of the warm sympathy with which I follow all that concerns the invaluable work which is carried out by the Queen's

Institute, and how deeply I appreciate the efforts of all who labour unceasingly for the noble aims and objects of the Institute."

The President said that they would all be gratified that the Queen had sent them such a kind message, and that her Majesty continued to take a deep personal and, he might add, practical interest in everything that concerned the Institute.

The Duke added that the good work of the Institute was very widely known and was winning the support and affection of more members of a generous public year by year. With reference to the visible memorial to their late beloved patron, Queen Alexandra, which had been designed by Mr. Alfred Gilbert, it was hoped that it would be unveiled next autumn.

The annual report of the Council for 1930 stated that during the last 20 years the number of nurses working in connection with the Queen's Institute had more than doubled, and the total number of nurses now working in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales was nearly 7,000, while the number of Nursing Associations affiliated to the Queen's Institute was 1,503. The nurses working in connection with the Institute attended approximately 680,000 cases and paid 16,320,000 visits each year. The benefit to the community of the visits of these nurses, who were not only specially trained to attend cases of illness, but were able to give the skilled advice which so often prevented ill-health, could not be over-estimated.

The National Gardens' Scheme had been a very great success. During the season 901 gardens were opened, many of them on more than one occasion, and the large sum of £10,119 was raised for the Queen's Institute and the Nursing Associations, an increase of £2,354 on the amount

raised the previous year. The work of district nursing throughout England and Wales would be appreciably benefited, and the large increase in the amount raised showed how greatly the privilege of visiting the gardens was appreciated.

The Executive Committee of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing met at 58, Victoria Street recently.



ETHEL GORDON MANSON,
Matron and Superintendent of Nursing, St. Bartholomew's
Hospital, London. May, 1881.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)