

NURSING ECHOES.

The opening of the new Civic Hall at Leeds by the King, on August 23rd, was attended with much pageantry and every demonstration of loyal welcome from thousands of citizens, and many inhabitants of the West Riding towns, who thronged into the city to give expression to their joy at the presence of their King in their midst. First visiting the Town Hall, opened 75 years ago by Queen Victoria, where their Majesties received an Address, the King, in responding, aptly characterised "a live and active civic spirit" as the root of good government.

On leaving the Town Hall the Queen stopped to speak to Miss Innes, Lady Superintendent of the Leeds General Infirmary, and said that she was glad to see present the representatives of the nursing profession who were lining the steps from the Town Hall. The Queen asked to which hospitals they belonged, and Miss Innes replied that 16 were members of the Territorial Army Nursing Service (of which Her Majesty is President) and others were members of the nursing staffs of the Leeds General Infirmary, and of the Women's Hospital. Miss Innes had the honour of being presented by Her Majesty to the King, from whom, as Principal Matron of the 2nd Northern General Hospital, she received the Royal Red Cross during the war.

Later, when it became known that the Queen was suffering from pain and discomfort in her right eye, owing to the presence of a particle of grit which had lodged there during the drive to the Civic Hall, Lord Moyriham, one of the guests at the Luncheon, telephoned to the General Infirmary, a resident surgical and the ophthalmic medical officer went to his assistance, and Miss Innes and a member of the nursing staff attended with eye dressings and gave skilled nursing care. As this caused some delay in the programme, the King's Equerry communicated to the Press His Majesty's wish that the people should know the reason for the delay. Eventually when, with the King, the Queen emerged smiling she had a great ovation.

It is interesting to learn that Miss Annie Fletcher, R.R.C., of Lytham-St. Anne's, Lancashire, who had the honour of nursing King Edward VII when he was operated upon for appendicitis and during his last illness, and who for many years was a nurse in the Royal Household, who died recently, left £1,968.

The original model, in composition, for the statue of Florence Nightingale, erected in Waterloo Place, of which the sculptor was Mr. A. G. Walker, has been secured for the Nightingale Training School at St. Thomas's Hospital, the most appropriate place for this treasure, which will daily remind generations of Nightingale Nurses of their priceless inheritance, and their obligation to maintain the professional and ethical ideals established by the Founder of their Training School.

The proposal by Dr. R. C. Macpherson, Medical Superintendent of St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, to which we referred last month, for the establishment of a Preliminary Training School for Nurses, which would provide the probationers for the city hospitals, and might attract pupils from other areas, has the

sympathetic support of the Principal of the City Municipal College, Mr. L. B. Benny. Conversations are proceeding, and the suggestion is that two certificated Sister-Tutors should be appointed as lecturers to a Portsmouth Municipal College of Nursing, and that two courses should be given annually at the College in physiology, anatomy, elementary physics and chemistry, hygiene, bandaging, first aid, sick cooking and dietetics, and it is hoped in the near future that the question may be raised officially with the governors of the Municipal College and the City Hospitals.

It is considered that the course would be valuable to girls between the ages of 15 and 18 and would be advantageous both by occupying profitably the time after they leave school and are old enough to enter a hospital, and also by reducing the entry of young girls into the labour market, and thus lessening their competition with boys of similar age. The financial proposals have yet to be put forward, but it is important that any scheme should be organised on a self-supporting basis.

A reader draws our attention to the question of the expense to the public of private nurses, instancing the case of an exhausted family, in poor circumstances, sending for a nurse to help with a hopeless case. The nurse arrived with two heavy suitcases, though anticipating a short engagement, and on leaving at the end of a day's service, missed her train, and expected her employer to refund her expenditure on taxis and entertainment while waiting, and to pay a week's fees, and also demanded first class railway fare.

We hope to refer to the private nursing situation in a future issue. From an extensive knowledge of private nursing institutions we believe that the almost universal rule is that their nurses travel third class, unless they are accompanying their patients.

The Annual Report of the King Edward Nurses, Cape Town, for 1931 disclosed grave anxiety over the financial position of the Order. Since that Report was published there has been a further reduction of income, owing to the withdrawal of the Grants-in-Aid previously given by the Provincial Administrations of the Transvaal and Natal, and the reduction of the Grant-in-Aid from the Cape Provincial Administration.

Owing to the generous response to Lady Clarendon's special appeal, to street collections in some large towns, and to retrenchments which have been effected, the year 1932 ended with a small balance in hand. It was, however, recognised that such special appeals could not be regarded as a regular source of income, and that measures must be taken to bring the expenditure within the income.

As the result of the recommendations of a sub-committee appointed to consider the position the Council decided that the Centres at Kroonstad and Ladysmith be closed, that the Order should concentrate all its resources in maintaining as many single nurses in remote areas as its funds would permit, and that the Lady Superintendent, Miss J. E. Pritchard, should take over the office of Secretary also, with headquarters in Cape Town as it was considered that the closing of the above centres would enable her to do this.

It was also decided, for the future, to grant fixed

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