

NURSING ECHOES.

The King, through Major Mackenzie, commissioner at Balmoral, has sent to the Crathie Nursing Association a donation of £100 from the Balmoral gate drawings and one of £280 from the proceeds of the recent fête at Abergeldie Castle. This sum is to serve as a nucleus of a fund for endowing the district nurse's car.

The Queen takes a very keen interest in the work of the association, and a few years ago provided at her own expense the first car for a nurse. Her Majesty, the Duke and Duchess of York, and the two little Princesses assisted in selling goods off the stalls at the Abergeldie fête.

His Royal Highness Prince George will open the new Nurses' Home attached to the Scunthorpe Hospital towards the end of October.

Everyone is pleased to note in the Press that the Princess Royal is now sufficiently convalescent after a long illness to attend interesting functions, and it is to be hoped she will soon be entirely restored to health.

The Queen's Institute of District Nursing has moved into new Headquarters, and will for the future be located at 57, Lower Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1. Telephone No. Sloane. 5319.

The Office of the Institute has been for so many years at 58, Victoria Street, S.W.1, that old friends will take time to realise it has been moved elsewhere.

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales invites applications for the post of Registrar upon the retirement of Miss M. S. Riddell—after thirteen years' service. Unfortunately the advertisement was received just too late to appear in our last issue as the time limit for applications was October 6th.

This post is one of the plums of the Nursing Profession, and naturally the applicant must hold high qualifications. She must hold a certificate of not less than three years' training from a recognized Nurse Training School, and must be Registered on the General part of the Register of the above Council. She must produce evidence of administrative ability, and of being conversant with modern standards of nursing education. Secretarial or office experience is desirable. A salary of £600 rising by £25 yearly to £700 inclusive is offered.

There appears to be no age limit, which it would have been well to insert in the advertisement, and as head of a great official clerical department, with upwards of 50 secretarial and clerical workers under her control, we consider the Registrar of the General Nursing Council should possess secretarial experience.

The Royal British Nurses' Association was granted its Royal Charter by Queen Victoria in 1893, the first organisation of trained nurses to be thus honoured—and glancing through the names of the Signatories, it is sad, but not surprising, to note that only six persons are now alive out of the thirty who were named in the Charter.

Cassandra Beachcroft (Lady Superintendent of the Lincoln County Hospital), aged 94; Sir James Crichton Browne, aged 93; Dr. Bedford Fenwick; Mrs. Bedford

Fenwick; Margaret Breay; and Gertrude A. Rogers—the majority more or less very active old people.

Quite recently we paid a visit to see Miss Beachcroft (a personal friend at the London Hospital upwards of fifty years ago), at her home at St. Leonards—and found her wonderfully well cared for by her devoted friend and nurse, who has for many years devoted herself absolutely to her well-being and happiness. They worked together in Rachel Ward at the "London" in the 'seventies of the last century, and have been colleagues and friends from those days to these.

Cassandra Beachcroft was one of the most strenuous and loyal workers for the great Registration movement, which happily she has lived to see supported throughout the world.

The Valedictory Meetings of the Nurses' Missionary League were held at University Hall, Dr. Williams' Library, Gordon Square, London, W.C., on October 4th, to wish God-speed to 15 members sailing for the Mission Field this year.

The Annual Sale of Work of the Nurses' Missionary League will be held at Headquarters, 135, Ebury Street, S.W., on Friday and Saturday, November 17th and 18th. Parcels should be sent to Miss Richardson at the above address as early as possible, and not later than November 15th.

The very practical proposal of the Chief Medical Officer, at the Ministry of Health, that girls should be taught in our State-supported schools the elements of nursing the sick, how to prepare invalid food, and how to care for babies—is long overdue. And certainly it is high time the discoveries in medical and nursing science and how they have helped mankind should be better known to the masses and a little gratitude offered to the heroes of science.

The Chief Medical Officer points out that it is the privilege of the teacher to lay the foundations of a health conscience in the minds of the English people of the next generation. How useful a work, and what results we may look for within the next twenty-five years! The more practical the teaching in our schools the less snobbery will annoy us—and let us hope the days will soon be at an end when those educated there will shirk carrying a parcel!

"We are constantly told by our elders," says the *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal*, "that we should see ourselves as others see us." This is not always as easy as they would have us believe, for who can read the inner thoughts of a Zulu or of an Aboriginal?

Sir D'Arcy Power has kindly pointed out to us Miss M. E. Durham's description of the impressions of a distinguished visitor from the South Seas Isles on witnessing a modern surgical operation. It runs as follows:—

"The High Priest dressed in white and having been ritually purified, is attended by male and female acolytes also specially garbed. The High Priest believes that the ghost is hidden in the victim's belly. By means of a grotesque apparatus an acolyte asserts that he can temporarily remove the victim's soul and the victim becomes apparently unconscious. To scare away the ghost both the High Priest and acolytes wear grotesque

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