

NURSING ECHOES.

Monday, January 16th, was the 101st anniversary of Sister Dora, the patron saint of Walsall, and to commemorate this event Walsall once more honoured her birthday by placing floral tributes on the statue on The Bridge, a wreath of laurels on her grave in Queen Street Cemetery, and flowers and plants round the base of the model of the statue standing just outside the Mayor's Parlour in the Council House.

There was a large gathering at The Bridge when the mayoral party arrived, which included besides the Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. W. Dean) the Borough Member, Alderman J. A. Leckie, Alderman E. H. Ingram (Chairman of Walsall General Hospital), Mr. H. H. Lee (Town Clerk), members of Walsall Town Council, Alderman Pearman Smith (Victoria Nursing Institution), Miss Strachan (Matron of Walsall General Hospital), and many members of the Nursing Staff, Miss Hart and the Staff of Manor Hospital, Miss Holloway, Miss Hall, and representatives of the Staff of the Nursing Institution, and many others.

The Mayoress placed the town's tribute at the foot of the Statue, and it consisted of a very beautiful basket of bright red carnations, which bore the following inscription:—

"In Proud and Happy Memory of DOROTHY WYNDLOW PATTISON (Sister Dora), born at Hawkswell, near Richmond, Yorkshire, 16th January, 1832. Matron of Walsall Cottage Hospital (now the Walsall General Hospital) 1865-1878. Died at Walsall, 24th December, 1878. Her noble and self-sacrificing labours in the cause of the sick and suffering endeared her to the hearts of Walsall people, and adorned with signal honour the Nursing Profession. — From the Mayor and Mayoress and Townspeople of Walsall, 16th January, 1933."

Alderman Leckie placed a wreath of pink carnations at the foot of the Statue, which bore the following inscription:—

"To the grateful and Undying Memory of Sister Dora. Walsall will never forget her noble work and gracious ministrations for the sick and wounded in the battle of life, nor the rich record of service which she has left to the town."

Other floral tributes included wreaths from Walsall General Hospital, of purple hyacinths, and yellow daffodils from the Public Health Nurses of the Council House.

The Mayor spoke most sympathetically in eulogy of the devoted nurse, and the gathering then dispersed.

In the evening the Statue was effectively floodlit.

Miss Gladys Stephenson, F.B.C.N., Matron of the Union Hospital, Hankow, China, Principal of its Nursing School, and President of the Nurses' Association of China, who is at present lecturing in England, is full of enthusiasm for her work and the Chinese people.

When talking of her activities, she said how much the name of Miss Florence Nightingale was revered by the Chinese. The name she is known by in China is "Nan Ding Keh Er," and on her birthday, May 12th, an appeal is made for the Hospitals in her name. Miss Stephenson worked at Hankow, but was sent

some time ago to a remote country town, and it happened to be just before May 12th. When getting ready the appeal for the Hospital, Miss Stephenson said, it will be no good to use the name of Nan Ding Keh Er, and she was at once told "every one knows Nan Ding Keh Er, even the poor fellow who ploughs the land"! We who live in the West often forget how very alive the Far East is, and one wonders how many of our own people could tell us about our own wonderful leader.

That Miss Florence Nightingale's name has penetrated to the remote villages of China is a splendid testimony of her greatness and the influence she has brought to bear on the world.

So far neither the Royal British Nurses' Association nor the British College of Nurses have received an official reply to their letters addressed to the Chairman of the London County Council, on its recent reactionary nursing policy (1) in exacting a fourth year of training from probationers, without consultation with the General Nursing Council for England and Wales—authorised by Parliament to control Nursing Education, Examination and Registration; and (2) in ignoring the legal status of the Nursing Profession by placing in charge as Sisters unregistered Nurses, a most serious blow to the economic condition of the Nursing Staff in Municipal Hospitals.

We are pleased to note, however, that at its meeting on Tuesday, January 31st last, the following recommendation from the Central Public Health Committee was agreed:—

Training and Examination of Nurses.

The Council, on November 22nd, 1932 (p. 619), decided that, as from and including April 1st, 1933, the period of training in general nursing for probationer nurses at hospitals and institutions under our management should be extended from three years to four years. We have considered a suggestion that probationer nurses recruited before the new scheme comes into operation should be given the option of coming under the new scheme and receiving a fourth year's training. We recommend—

That probationer nurses recruited before April 1st, 1933, be given the opportunity of taking, if they so desire, a four-years' course of training in general nursing, as approved on November 22nd, 1932 (p. 619), for probationer nurses entering the service on and after April 1st, 1933, instead of a three-years course as at present in operation.

Thus, presumably, probationer nurses under a three years' contract are not to be compelled to serve four years' without their consent. Before agreeing to a fourth year's training probationers should be informed of what it will consist.

If training in midwifery, massage, X-ray and electrical treatment, or in hospital housekeeping, are to be included, there would be no excuse for appointing unregistered Nurses as Sisters in such special departments.

Standard for the L.C.C.

We have just culled the following advertisement from the *Times*. L.C.C. please note:—

CLAYTON HOSPITAL, WAKEFIELD.
(X-RAY and THERAPEUTIC DEPARTMENT.)
A RESIDENT SISTER is REQUIRED to take charge of the above entirely new department which will shortly

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