

NURSING ECHOES.

The Queen gave an afternoon party at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, March 22nd, at which her Majesty received the members of Queen Mary's Committee of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

Nearly 100 women attended the party, and were received by the Queen in the drawing-rooms on the first floor, which were exquisitely decorated with spring flowers. The day was lovely, and everyone present greatly enjoyed seeing the beautiful rooms, not usually used for receptions.

The Duchess of Richmond and Gordon was among the speakers at the recent annual meeting of the Metropolitan District Nursing Association at the Main Home of the Association, 31, Bedford Place. She said that Queen's Nurses were most highly trained and their influence in the homes of the people extended far beyond actual nursing. Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter quoted the words of Florence Nightingale written when the Association was founded, "Nothing second best is good enough," and said that her high ideals were still carried on, although hampered by financial difficulties.

Some nurses are, just now, anxiously enquiring how they can belong to the International Council of Nurses, and the answer is by belonging to the National Council of Nurses of your own country, which is attained through membership of one of the Associations or Leagues affiliated to the National Council of Great Britain. If you are not a member of any such Association, then join one, and so become an integral part of the world-wide International Council of Nurses, which brings you into direct relation with your professional colleagues throughout the world, and enjoy the inspiration and uplifting which intercourse with them affords.

It is interesting to note that the seven Associations of Matrons, English and Scottish, are all included in the National Council.

Those nurses who desire to cherish the memory of distinguished nurses of past days will be glad to be reminded of what the late Bishop Gore once told the Guild of St. Barnabas concerning St. Catharine of Genoa. The Bishop said: "She was one of the greatest of the Saints of the fifteenth century, and Baron von Hügel wrote the most wonderful life of her in those two volumes of 'The Mystical Element of Religion.' After her conversion, when she was a young woman, people supposed she would become a Religious, and someone once had the audacity to tell her she would have done better if she had become a Religious, because then she could have loved God more, and she flamed out in passionate protest. She became a nurse, first living in her own house and working among the poor—then going into the great Genoese Hospital and serving among the lay nurses through a long period of her life, and then becoming Matron and showing an extraordinary wisdom in dealing with the complicated business arrangements, which were in terrible confusion, and incredible heroism and fortitude through all the horrible visitation of the plague of Genoa. No one could have been, according to the standard of those times, a more energetic

nurse. No one could have been a better Matron; no one could have dealt with external business with more extraordinary efficiency. And all the time, in spite of external pre-occupation, she was the great mystic; one of the leaders of the mystic life; one whose life was wrapped up in God—and a great theologian withal."

Two members of the nursing staff of the Hove Hospital, Sister C. Banks and Nurse Ida Beeton, were recently presented in the Hove Magistrates' Court by the Mayor, Councillor V. R. Hudson, with framed certificates of the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire, and cheques for £2 2s., saying "Hove and its Mayor are proud of you."

The circumstances which resulted in the presentation were related by the Mayor as follows:—

On the evening of December 22nd an elderly woman living in Byron Street was cooking over an oil stove when the stove burst into flames. The woman rushed from her room, and, in response to her calls for help, Mr. Whiting, a neighbour, ran in to put out the flames. The fumes were too much for him, and he was on the point of collapse when Sister Banks and Nurse Beeton, together with Mr. Sibley, an ex-patient of the hospital, fought their way in and dragged him out. Mr. Whiting had subsequently to receive treatment at the hospital. He afterwards declared that the brave action of the two nurses undoubtedly saved his life.

At first the hospital authorities decided that the names of the nurses should not be made public. We are glad to learn, however, that owing to a protest from the *Brighton and Hove Herald* this decision was reversed.

Naturally members of the Nursing Profession read with interest the report of the case where a schoolboy claimed damages in connection with injuries received when sulphuric and nitric acid was accidentally spilled on his neck and head, thereby suffering serious injury from which he may suffer for life. In evidence it was proved that the boy was treated by the nurse, and that the doctor was not consulted until the following day. In Court the Nurse's treatment of this serious injury was approved by several medical practitioners.

Asked by Counsel: "Why did you not send for a doctor at once?" the reply was "Our visiting surgeon was dying, and the doctor in charge of his practice was looking after him. I felt confident that in the circumstances I could look after the case myself. I believed I was doing what was best and proper for the boy."

We strongly deprecate this assumption of medical treatment by a nurse. In an emergency it is her duty to give first aid, and take no further responsibility. In our opinion it was the duty of the nurse to obtain skilled medical treatment for the seriously injured boy without delay. To leave him for twenty-one hours without such aid and presume to "look after the case myself" showed a lack of professional sense, which we hope is rare in the ethical relations between nurses and doctors.

In the Frontier Nursing Service, a movement which, in Kentucky, has blazed a romantic and beneficent trail, has enlisted our sympathy from its inception—and from its *Quarterly Bulletin* we rejoice to note that

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