

NURSING ECHOES.

The Queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of 119 nurses to be Queen's Nurses. Ninety-four received their special training as District Nurses in training homes in England, three in Wales, twenty in Scotland, one in Northern Ireland, and one in the Irish Free State.

The financial results of the gardens scheme, which have been reported to the Scottish Council of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, show that the gross drawings amounted to £5,688. Adding £220 from the Royal Gardens at Balmoral, and £13 received in contributions towards the cost of publishing the Gardens Scheme Booklet, etc., the total reached £5,921, which was reported to be £810 in excess of the amount made by the scheme last year. One-half of the £5,688 was retained in the counties and applied, less local expenses, to nursing purposes in their respective areas. The balance of £3,078, less expenses of £330 incurred at headquarters in Edinburgh, was equally divided between the Scottish Queen's Nurses' Pension Fund and helping towards meeting the necessary expenditure required for the training of Queen's Nurses in Scotland.

The Red Cross Ball which takes place at Grosvenor House on November 28th promises to be a very brilliant affair. The Countess of Plymouth is chairman of the Committee of Management. A feature will be the portraiture of famous nurses in various periods of history, from 380 A.D. to Florence Nightingale.

A band of girls has been enlisted in a "five squares" committee to sell tickets, enrolled under the names of five women famous in nursing history; they are Fabiola, St. Elizabeth of Thuringia, Hungary, Mademoiselle le Gras, Jeanne Mance, and Florence Nightingale.

We hear that the procession of historic Royal Nurses at the Dinner of the British College of Nurses at Grosvenor House last year aroused a great deal of interest and we have had enquiries as to where the magnificent costumes worn by the Queens on this occasion were made. The firm who designed and made these, in consultation with the President of the College, were Messrs. H. & M. Rayne, Ltd., of 15, Rupert Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1, and every requirement for the staging of such tableaux can be obtained from them. The Queens subsequently took part in the "Living Pictures" presented at the Congress of the International Council of Nurses in Paris in July 1933, and we present on page 285 the portrait of Miss D. K. Graham, F.B.C.N., as she appeared on that occasion as St. Elizabeth ("The Holy Elizabeth" of Thuringia.)

School nurses who realise how largely the question of nutrition enters into the problems which confront them in dealing with school children will learn with interest that the Education Committee made the following report to the London County Council at its meeting on October 30th:—

"Under the Milk Act, 1934, the Milk Marketing Board prepared a scheme which was put into force on October 1st, 1934. The scope of the scheme is as follows: Milk is supplied in one-third pint bottles, with straws, at a charge to the consumer of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a bottle, to

all full-time schools or courses for children or young persons, recognised by the Board of Education for grant. The scheme is to be extended also to classes for unemployed juveniles established under the Unemployment Act, 1934. The scheme applies only to milk drunk in school, as a beverage, supplied in the one-third pint bottles, and not to that used for cooking and instructional purposes.

"The vendors and the quality of milk supplied must be approved by the local medical officers of health. It was our wish that only pasteurised milk should be approved under the scheme, and this has been specified by the county medical officer, after conferring with the borough medical officers."

In this relation, it is important to note the warning given in his Annual Report by the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health:—

"In previous reports I have drawn attention to the need for proper and efficient pasteurisation of milk. It is necessary to stress the adjectives 'proper' and 'efficient' because there is reason to believe that much 'pasteurisation' is pasteurisation in word only and not in fact. In some cases the pasteurising appliances are badly designed and in others carelessly and improperly operated, with the result that milk which has passed through them is not really pasteurised, and may contain living tubercle bacilli. To call such milk pasteurised is to deceive the consumer and to give a false sense of security. It has even been alleged that some milk distributors equipped with pasteurising appliances do not use them during the winter when the weather is cold, their customers remaining under the misapprehension that the milk is pasteurised."

Alertness on the part of nurses in this regard is, therefore, highly important.

The Mayor of Middlesbrough, Councillor A. Cooper, who recently formally opened the new nurses' home of the West Lane Fever Hospital, Middlesbrough, said that the Corporation's work in the prevention and cure of disease had undoubtedly prolonged and sweetened life, and the nurses had thoroughly earned the increased comfort which the home would provide for them. Their work was not easy; it was exacting and sometimes unpleasant, but nothing was more necessary to public life than these willing helpers in the healing of the infectious sick.

M. Sadi Kirschen, the barrister, whose death occurred recently, who, during the German occupation of Belgium, defended Miss Edith Cavell, told in his book, "Before the German War Tribunals," the inner history of the cases which he defended during the War.

Shortly before his death, he was asked, says the Brussels correspondent of *The Times*, what reason, in his opinion, had led the Germans to shoot Miss Cavell. He answered that in 1915 German public opinion was so angered against England that a victim had to be offered to it, and the victim was Miss Cavell.

Miss Cavell herself was aware of the German hatred. When in prison after the death sentence had been passed upon her, she was advised by another prisoner to sign a petition for mercy. She refused to do so, saying: "It is useless. I am an Englishwoman, and that is why they want me to die."

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