

NURSING ECHOES.

On page 91, we report the list of gifts most generously contributed by the Mayor of Walsall, S. E. Edge, Esq., to the History Section of the British College of Nurses for which the Council has sent him a warm expression of gratitude. The reproductions of Sister Dora (Miss Dorothy Wyndlow Pattison) as a beautiful young woman will, we feel sure, be of the greatest interest to readers of this Journal. Very earnest she appears, but the gay, sparkling charm for which she was renowned is hardly apparent.

The reproduction of the photograph of her intimate possessions is extremely interesting to those who value "the touch of a vanished hand."

It is good to know that Walsall venerates every tangible item associated with "our Sister Dora," and the beautiful photographs and gifts sent to the British College of Nurses associated with this fascinating and noble woman are deeply valued and will be most carefully preserved.

We are glad to learn that 1934 opens with rather better prospects than 1933 for the Ranyard Nurses—the Nursing Branch of the Ranyard Mission, Ranyard House, 25, Russell Square, London, W.C.1, for the nurses are doing good work for the sick poor of London, and 1933 was in many respects a dark year for the Mission.

One of the hopeful signs of 1933 was the number of nurses making enquiries about the work. District Nursing, we are told, is coming into its own as a vocation, and many choose the Ranyard Mission as their first field of enquiry because of their desire to have a missionary background to their work. Fifteen Nurses came to Ranyard House during the year and 11 were accepted.

The number of Nurses on the staff at the end of December, 1933, in addition to the Home Sister, Miss Nelson, and the Visiting Sisters, Miss Belsham, Miss Ruttledge and Miss Simpson, was 87 Staff Nurses and seven Supernumerary Nurses.

There have been inevitable changes during the year, and for the first time for many years the Staff has lost a member—Nurse Henshall—through death. She is greatly missed both as a Nurse and a colleague. Two Nurses left to be married in the summer, and 17 others for various reasons, Nurse Ross after 15 years' valuable work in Stoke Newington to care for two invalid sisters.

In December Sister Belsham broke the news that she would have to resign in the New Year. The Report says, "it is difficult to think of our Nurse Branch without her help and care, and her resignation is a great blow to us."

The Nurses attended 10,510 patients and paid 296,629 visits during the year. Financially the Nurse Branch did better in 1933. The total receipts from the L.C.C. for district work amounted to £803, 6s. 5d., as against £105 17s. from the Boards of Guardians. But this sum was only payment at the rate of 6d. to 7d. a visit for the cases actually recorded as in relief of Public Assistance or sent by Municipal Hospitals or District Medical Officers, and made no allowance for all the preventive work.

The Council has decided to adopt the Federated Superannuation Scheme for all Nurses joining after January 1st, 1934, which will involve a considerable additional expense. Annual subscriptions and donations in support of the good work are



SISTER DORA.

Enlargement of a Daguerrotype of Sister Dora as a young woman.

becoming increasingly urgent.

The somewhat surprising Triennial Election of the London County Council has taken place since our last issue, and the Municipal Reform Party, which has been in power for so many years, has been superseded by a Socialist majority. It remains to be seen how it will use its far-reaching powers.

We note that the old Central Public Health Committee, presided over by a medical woman, has been superseded by the new "Hospitals and Medical Services Committee," and it is to be hoped that as it largely controls the lives and education of thousands of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)