

NURSING ECHOES.

Ne touchez pas le Roi. In other words, do not listen to or repeat statements which reflect upon the sanctity of the Crown.

Queen Mary has, as usual, been interesting herself in numerous charitable organisations, visiting their centres, and sending gifts near and far to brighten the Christmas of those who are not overburdened with this world's goods. Her generous example always encourages others to seek out those in need.

At this season of the year gifts and blessings are showered upon Her Majesty. Rich and poor offer heartfelt wishes for her happiness in return for the great debt owed to her by the peoples of the Empire.

The members of the Nursing Profession are proverbially generous to those colleagues who have fallen on hard times—especially at Christmas. Writes one: "We all know of sad cases. I always spend my last penny to brighten Christmas for old nurses, many of whom are poor and lonely, although they hide their penury and sorrows. I look upon Miss Macdonald's Calendar as a veritable widow's cruse, and am convinced it is such a marvellous success because it is blessed by a mysterious and beneficent Power. This year the Calendar is more beautiful and inspiring than ever, and I am glad to hear it has had such a splendid sale, as this means gifts and good cheer for many nurses in need."

We learn there is to be a Jubilee Appeal next year on behalf of the Queen's Institute and County Associations for District Nursing.

Sir William Hale-White, speaking on behalf of Lord Athlone, who was unable to be present, at a luncheon at the Savoy Hotel to discuss the proposed appeal, said that in 1887 there was a Jubilee offering from the women of Great Britain and Ireland to Queen

Victoria and £70,000 was applied to the endowment of the institute. There could seldom have been a more fruitful investment in philanthropic work. In the last annual return available, the year's income of the nursing associations throughout the country was £1,059,667; and of this the receipts in gifts from patients and provident funds were responsible for £416,110.

There were still places unserved and others inadequately served. Their ambition was to celebrate the Institute's Jubilee in 1937 by further strengthening the whole structure. There was additional work to be done by some 1,600 more nurses. To recruit and train 1,600 more nurses would cost £50,000 to £60,000.

They would like to be able to help associations to supplement their funds wherever necessary, and also to raise a central fund for training and for special development purposes. The salaries of district nurses all over the country must be increased. They were at present working out a detailed scheme to advance the salaries of all district nurses and to increase their number.

Descriptions of the work of district nursing were given by Miss Mercy Wilmshurst, general superintendent of the Queen's Institute. Lord Nuffield said he did not know what the working people of this country would do without district nursing. Of all philanthropic institutions there was none doing more good.

Every one will wish success to the appeal if it will enable district nursing to be performed

by highly qualified Registered Nurses—as many of the Queen's Nurses are—and to discourage the employment of ill-paid "Nurse Midwives" as Voluntary Associations are permitted to do under the New Midwives Act.

Lady Malmesbury, President of the Elderly Nurses' National Home Fund, recently presided over a public meeting at St. Peter's Hall, Bournemouth, at which



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HER MAJESTY, QUEEN MARY.

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