

NURSING ECHOES.

His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury will preside, supported by His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley, at a meeting to be held at the Guildhall, on Saturday, February 11th, at 3 p.m., to discuss the Shortage of Nurses. Speakers will describe the urgency of the country's need.

In response to a Petition signed by the Heads of the Medical and Nursing Professions and the Leaders of religious and social organisations Her Majesty Queen Mary has promised a Message of Encouragement and has graciously signified her intention to be present at the Meeting.

The audience will be composed of the Senior Girls from our leading Schools and of Girl Guides and other Youth Organisations.

Time was, and not so long ago, when at public hospital functions of appeal the nursing staff was never mentioned. Not so to-day. We note that, at the splendid inauguration of an appeal for financial support and modernisation of St. Bartholomew's Hospital at the Mansion House, at which the Lord Mayor presided, on January 30th, that the importance of the nursing of the sick, and consequently the organisation of the Nursing Department, received the recognition which is its due. His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, the President of "Bart.'s," in appealing for £650,000 required, stated that the hospital had three main duties: the care and treatment of the sick poor; the teaching of medical students; and the training of nurses.

His Royal Highness stated that the third object for which Bart.'s was appealing was additional accommodation for its nurses. Few professions demanded more unselfishness, patience, and courage than nursing. In years gone by nurses were asked to do too much. The governors of Bart.'s had done much towards reducing hours and bettering nursing conditions; but more remained to be done. Every reduction in hours meant an increase in the nursing staff. So they had at Bart.'s to find accommodation for a further 250 nurses. The cost would be, roughly, £150,000—a small sum to pay in return for such magnificent work as nurses did.

Then there was need for a new preliminary training school for nurses. The existing school consisted of three old houses in an unsuitable neighbourhood, quite unfitted for the purpose. It had been decided to provide a new preliminary school outside London, where nurses could enjoy fresh air and facilities for recreation.

The money is required for the reconstruction of essential parts of the hospital, which after 200 years have become obsolete and involve extravagance in administration. The £650,000 is made up of £150,000 to complete the new nurses' home; £125,000 for a paying patients' block; £25,000 for a new nurses' preliminary training school; £150,000 for new children's and maternity wards, and £200,000 for new special departments.

The Lord Mayor announced subscriptions of £58,500, which was a record for a first appeal at the Mansion House, and it is to be hoped the money required will roll in.

No doubt changes are inevitable, but as we grow older we like them less and less; thus a kind letter from Miss Nan Dorsey, the late Warden of Florence Nightingale International House, upon her retirement was received with very sincere regret, in so far as her resignation was concerned. Miss Dorsey was well beloved and we are not surprised to learn that the "Old Internationals' Association," composed of the international pupils who for so many years were privileged to enjoy her maternal care in London, have made her a wonderful gift of an extended tour to several European countries where she is to be the guest of past Nightingale students.

Miss Dorsey left England on this delightful tour on January 18th, and will be gone for three months, and we are glad to learn that before returning to her native land, the United States, she will be in London for two or three weeks, so that we shall hope to see her again and wish her *bon voyage*.

Wherever in the United States of America the next International Congress of Nurses is held, no doubt a visit to Washington will be included. It would be unthinkable to omit it. The beauty and magnificence of this great city has for British Nurses magnetic powers; by and by we shall lay stress on its historic values. We are reminded in a recent issue of the *American Journal of Nursing* that the Nurses Monument which marks the Army and Navy Nurse Corps plot at Arlington National Cemetery, which is close to the capital, was unveiled by six Army and six Navy Nurses on November 8th, 1938, when Miss J. Beatrice Bowman, superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps (retired) presided at the ceremony.

In her presentation speech, Major Julia C. Stimson, Superintendent Army Nurse Corps (retired), described the figure which overlooks the graves of 116 nurses and shows to all who pass that this is the nurses' section, as a symbol of the spirit of nursing, "their tenderness and compassion, their competence, courage, and humane qualities . . . the spirit of nursing of the past, of to-day, and of the years to come. With renewed dedication to the spirit of nursing, we present this figure as guardian of our comrades in their eternal sleep, and as an inspiration to all who devote their lives to the service of others."

The symbolic monument, carved from Tennessee marble by Frances Rich, was accepted by Admiral Percival S. Rossiter, Surgeon-General U.S. Navy.

In the same issue of the *American Journal of Nursing* Miss Lavinia L. Dock has a delightful little review of "Lillian Wald—Neighbor and Crusader," by R. L. Duffus, so well known to us all for her fine work as a health missionary in New York and for her works "The House in Henry Street" and "Windows in Henry Street." We second Miss Dock's advice that "every nurses' library should own this trilogy. The three books belong together and are endlessly inspiring. It would be hard for anyone who had read any of the three to hate his neighbour."

The War Office announces a long list of appointments to the Territorial Army Nursing Service, which we regret we have not space to publish in full. This Service is of the utmost national value.

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