

NURSING ECHOES.

MRS. REBECCA STRONG, O.B.E., ATTAINS HER HUNDREDDTH BIRTHDAY.

On Monday, August 23rd, Mrs. Rebecca Strong, O.B.E., attained the age of a hundred years, and her colleagues in the United Kingdom sent greetings and gifts on this wonderful occasion. Mrs. Strong trained at St. Thomas's Hospital, was an early "Nightingale"; and subsequently made for herself a great reputation as an organiser of nursing at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where she spent two terms of office as Matron, inaugurating a system of preliminary training for nurses, which principle has been widely adopted in flourishing Preliminary Schools attached to the great General Hospitals.

Mrs. Strong, who was a great traveller, took an active interest in the organisation of the International Council of Nurses and attended many of its gatherings, where she was always a personage of great interest to her colleagues from many lands. The following telegram was sent to Mrs. Strong from the British College of Nurses, Ltd., of which she was an early Fellow:—

"The Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., desire to convey their affectionate greetings, gratitude, and admiration to their eminent colleague (Mrs. Rebecca Strong, O.B.E.), on attaining her hundredth birthday and wish her all the happiness she deserves in return for the eminent services she has rendered to the Nursing Profession of which she is so well beloved a pioneer."

(Signed)

ETHEL GORDON FENWICK.
(President).

Mrs. Strong's name appears in the margin of the beautiful Certificate awarded in the past to Fellows and Members, together with that of Florence Nightingale, Margaret Huxley, and Ethel G. Fenwick (President).

The King and Queen sent a telegram to Mrs. Rebecca Strong, O.B.E. Their Majesties congratulated her on her distinguished services to the nursing profession.

Queen Mary also sent a congratulatory letter and an autographed photograph of herself.

Illuminated addresses, telegrams and bouquets were presented to Mrs. Strong on this occasion, including personal presentations from the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, and the Nightingale Fellowship of St. Thomas's Hospital, London.

Even a long life is not long enough to do all one could wish. For instance, if we had not undertaken to

present in this journal year by year the history of the Nursing World in which we live and have our being, it would have given us real pleasure to record the comic history of nursing as we have enjoyed it; for, indeed, serious work as it is, comedy is always with us and little episodes remain indelibly stamped on memory.

Those of us who remember the late Miss Catherine Wood, one time Lady Superintendent of the Children's Hospital, Gt. Ormond Street, and later actively engaged in the turmoil of R.B.N.A. organisation, will not fail to realise she was a woman of character, as, indeed, were so many of our colleagues in the last century, and it was marvellous how such women maintained their equilibrium.

We remember at a gathering of nurses called together to consider the organisation of the B.N.A., a timid little person venturing to enquire:

"What shall I get for my half-crown?"

"Nothing," promptly replied Miss Wood; "your half-crown is intended to benefit others!"

To judge from the faces present this was poor comfort indeed!

And then we matrons began the monumental struggle with Sir Henry Burdett over professional status, who proposed to register nurses for half-a-crown, indulgence in strong liquor to be a deterrent!

Led by Miss Wood, we matrons stormed the premises, having demanded a meeting of Committee. Arrived at the door, the Secretary, an amiable and not very forceful gentleman, denied us admittance. But not for long!

Miss Wood planted her square-cut person in the doorway and exclaiming—

"We are here by right and not by courtesy," swept



MRS. REBECCA STRONG, O.B.E.
Honoured by Royalty and her professional colleagues on her hundredth birthday.

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