

NURSING ECHOES.

*** Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

THE death of the Empress Augusta of Germany has recalled to many the great part she played in the improvement of Nursing throughout her country. Her foundation of the Augusta Hospital has done incalculable good in providing for the better care of the sick poor in their own homes, and the share she took in the establishment of the Red Cross Society can never



be minimised nor forgotten.

I AM asked to remind members of the British Nurses' Association of the General Meeting, to be held to-morrow (Friday) evening, at eight p.m., at 20, Hanover Square, when a paper by Miss Mollett is announced to be read (in her absence on her journey to South Africa) by Miss C. J. Wood, entitled, "On an unpopular branch of our profession." If this refers to Poor Law Infirmary work, an interesting discussion may be well anticipated; and certainly Miss Mollett is qualified to write with considerable authority upon the subject. As was the case last year, I hear that non-members can obtain cards of admission from the Secretary, price one shilling each.

It is reported in the daily papers that Lady Verney has presented to the Aylesbury Infirmary a bust of her sister, Miss Florence Nightingale, whose services to the sick and wounded during the Crimean campaign will never be forgotten. It is a cast taken from the well-known work by Sir John Steell, which was subscribed for by the British Army, and forwarded to Miss Nightingale's father.

CHRISTMAS entertainments have been, and still are, the order of the day. I have had many accounts sent to me which show that the good old customs have been loyally observed in many Hospitals, but pressure on space prevents me from being able to give these descriptions at much length. Nevertheless I do my best. St. Bartholomew's, I hear, had more than usual success with its entertainment for the Nurses and Resident Staff. The Trial Scene from the "Merchant of Venice" was given, Mr. Townesend specially distinguishing himself as Shylock. In the Concert,

great admiration was caused by the exquisite singing of Miss Barling, one of the Probationers.

I HAVE particulars forwarded me of an entertainment which took place at Belvidere Hospital, Glasgow, on New Year's night, which was a great success, Dr. Neilson and Dr. J. W. Allan both taking much personal interest in the proceedings, the latter specially pointing out in a well-chosen speech the very excellent and appreciated services rendered by the Matron, Mrs. Sinclair. A programme of vocal music was gone through, and everybody appeared heartily satisfied with the amusement provided.

AND I ought not to omit to state that on the last Saturday evening of the Old Year Miss Boulty, Lady Superintendent of the Perth Sick Poor Nurses Home, gave a tea in the Home to some of the old child invalids and children of invalids. The room was ornamented with holly and two large mottoes—"A Merry Christmas" and "Welcome," these last the work of Miss Rudd. There were thirty-seven children in all. Tea over, excellent music was rendered. Before leaving each child was presented with a gift of warm clothing and a toy or box, provided by friends from all quarters, voluntarily to a great extent.

THE little patients of the Fleming Memorial Hospital for Sick Children, Newcastle-on-Tyne, also had a treat. The occasion was the distribution of toys from an immense Christmas-tree to the sick children in the Institution. The Hospital on the Moor Edge has at all times an elegant appearance, but its internal aspect that evening was rendered still more charming and cheering by the decorations. There were about one hundred and fifty visitors in the room, including the Mayoress (Mrs. Bell), the ladies of the committee, and many others. Miss Coghlin, the Lady Superintendent, the Ward Sisters, the Nurses, and Drs. Black, Beatley, and Baumgartner, were also in attendance, looking after the comfort of the children. The generous founder of the Hospital, Mr. John Fleming, after a short address, kindly and sympathetic, to the little patients, distributed the prizes, and the pleased expression of the children as they received their presents with exclamations of delight, formed a sight no less gratifying to those adults present. The visitors were provided with tea, and a musical entertainment, at which the inmates sang, was given. The sick children were immensely delighted with their treats, and for hours afterwards in their cots they revelled in the possession of their prizes, and in the beautiful aspect of the interior of their temporary home.

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