

Nursing Echoes.

* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



The present day is one of co-operation. All classes of workers are learning that, through co-operation, they can best advance their own interests and command just remuneration for their services, and it is, therefore, not surprising that a Mental Nurses' Co-operation is about to be formed, but rather that its formation has not sooner taken place. We welcome all movements of the kind, and hope that it may prove a success.

It is unquestionable that for the efficient nursing of mental cases asylum training is a necessity. But equally it is certain that, as mental trouble and physical ailments are frequently associated, the mental nurse must also have a knowledge of general nursing as a basis of her work. We are glad to know that at the present day considerably more attention is being paid to this point in asylums than was formerly the case, and that efforts are now made as a rule to ensure that all pupils in training shall spend some time in the Infirmary wards. We hope that this is a point which will receive consideration in connection with the new co-operation. Nurses with general training find that to be successful as private nurses they must add one or more specialities to their general knowledge, and, we believe, those who devote themselves to mental nursing should regard this as a speciality, and should be careful to base it on a knowledge of the principles and practice of general nursing while ultimately taking up mental work exclusively.

The idea of a Mental Nurses' Co-operation originated with Miss Jean Hastie, herself a mental nurse, trained for three years at the Prestwich Asylum, and who has had 18 years' experience of this work. Her idea was encouraged by Dr. Rayner, a mental specialist, who believed that such a co-operation was needed. Miss Hastie endeavoured in the first instance to induce other mental nurses to join

with her in financing the project, but so far unsuccessfully. She has, however, succeeded in interesting medical men in her scheme, and her desire is that it should be founded as a public, not a private, society. She approves of members of the co-operation having seats on its committee.

Miss Hastie is full of ideas for the welfare of the members. A Reserve Fund, a reading room, social intercourse, lectures, and ultimately a home of their own being all cherished projects. She believes that the mental nurse more almost than any other needs to be of a high and refined type, and is interested in endeavouring to raise the standard in this direction.

It is proposed to start the Co-operation on a ten per cent. basis for the three guinea fees, the members also paying an entrance fee, and to decrease the percentage as more nurses join and the profits are larger, the early members being the first to benefit by the decreased percentage. On two guineas $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. will be charged, and 5 per cent. on lower fees. Ultimately it is hoped, if the London Co-operation proves successful, to open branches in other large towns in the United Kingdom. The formation of the Society is being brought to the notice of the Medico-Psychological Association, with the hope of obtaining its official support.

The qualification for membership of the Co-operation will be the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association, or of some well-known Asylum. Some Asylum-trained nurses of long standing, with satisfactory credentials, will also be accepted at present, a less fee being charged for their services than the ordinary £3 3s. for acute cases, or £2 2s. for more chronic cases. The offices of the Co-operation are at 115, Edgware Road, London, W.

We desire to draw the attention of candidates for the Examination of the Nursing Certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association on November 4th, that October 7th is the last day upon which they can enter their names for it. Schedules may be obtained from the Registrar, Dr. Alfred Miller, Warwick County Asylum, Warwick.

The Great Northern Central Hospital was fortunate in having perfect weather for the carnival last week, held with the object of securing much needed funds for this deserving institution. In all, the cars, bicycles, and

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