

## Nursing Echoes.



Miss H. L. Pearse has been invited to give evidence before the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education, which is considering the expediency of excluding or admitting children from the elementary schools before the legal age of five years. We believe Miss Pearse is the only trained nurse who has been consulted upon this very important question.

Personally we are strongly in favour of admitting very young children to these schools, considering the industrial condition of many of their parents. Many mothers of young children are compelled to go out and work for them; thus these poor little ones get into bad habits. In the schools they can be trained in habits of cleanliness and cared for before mental study begins, and, after all, surely such training is the best basis for real education.

We are pleased to record a nice little international item. After "Paris," where the papers and discussion on Trained Nurses in Schools aroused much interest, Miss J. van Lanschot-Hubrecht asked that a nurse from Holland might be permitted to come to England and study the system under the London County Council. Through the kind offices of Miss Pearse, and upon the recommendation of the medical officer, Dr. Kerr, the Schools Committee of the L.C.C. have granted permission, and Miss Annette J. Samkalden van de Cappellen will arrive in London at an early date, and will for three months have every facility of studying the methods of work now being carried on in the County Council schools. The result of this Dutch lady's visit will be, no doubt, to encourage and develop school nursing in Holland. It is in this way that the International Council of Nurses can be made of the utmost value to the sick at large.

After spending 22 years in the Workhouse at Margate the Press have discovered Miss Emma Fagg, who worked for three months with Miss Nightingale in the Crimea. It is a little late in the day, and Miss Fagg shows her sense when she says that having been well cared for in the institution for nearly a quarter of a century, she has no wish whatever to leave it and "begin life again at the age of 82!"

It is sad that any trained nurse should be compelled to end her days on the rates, but, considering the miserable salaries they were paid in the past, the wonder is the majority have remained independent. The one aim and object of the well-to-do persons who attempt to organise women's work appears to screw down their remuneration to the uttermost farthing. The miserable pay of Cottage Nurses, and, if it is not prevented, the salaries for Midwives offered by associations of the rich and well-to-do, will necessitate a considerable enlargement of Workhouses to accommodate Cottage Nurses and Midwives when their working days are at an end. Charitable associations seldom consider it necessary for a woman to earn a living wage. Rank bad economics in our opinion.

The *Queen's Nurses' Magazine* is invariably full of most interesting and instructive matter, and Queen's Nurses are very fortunate to possess an organ so admirably adapted to the special needs of district nurses. We note, therefore, with pleasure that the magazine has cleared its expenses last year, and hope the present year may place it on a sound financial basis. This can only be done by united effort and support.

A good deal of attention is given to the question of Pensions for Queen's Nurses, indeed, absolutely necessary, as from their limited salaries very little can be saved to provide for old age. Scotland appears in the van in this important matter. The Fund for this purpose in the hands of the Scottish Council to date amounts to £2,280 0s. 9d., to which will fall to be added £1,000 from the residue of Miss Guthrie Wright's estate, when received. The Council approves of a recommendation to raise £25,000 for this purpose.

The Tuberculous Exhibition at present educating Ireland in methods of prevention and cure is ably reported, and the Prize Competition Essays on Country and Town Labourers' Weekly Budgets are most practical. There are numerous letters on suggestive subjects—notably the need of clinical classes for district nurses, that Matrons of hospitals should assume a more sympathetic and encouraging attitude towards district nursing, and the necessity for an annual Conference amongst district nurses.

Might we suggest that just such benefits would result from the formation of a Queen's Nurses' League. When Queen's Nurses associate themselves together for mutual help,

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