

NURSING ECHOES.

We commend to the attention and consideration of our readers the Supplement published in this week's issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, on the action of the National Council of Trained Nurses in its petition to the Secretary of State for War, to prevent the expenditure of the munificent subscriptions of the public on inefficient nursing, and the subjection of the sick and wounded to the dangerous interference of untrained and unskilled women.

We have received a statement by Sir Henry A. Miers, F.R.S., Chairman of the Executive Committee, Household and Social Service Department, King's College for Women, in answer to the Statement by Miss L. L. Dock, published in a recent issue. We hope to find space for this reply next week, but it does not alter facts, so far as the International Council of Trained Nurses is concerned.

We have received from the Poor Law Publications Co., 27 to 29, Fournival Street, London, E.C., a copy of "Modern Medical and Surgical Nursing for Probationers," by Miss C. Seymour Yapp, Matron of the Poor Law Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne, which appears to be a very useful handbook, dealing with the duties of probationers in their first, second, and third years. We hope to refer again to this book.

In connection with the scheme instituted by the President of the Local Government Board for the consolidation of District Nursing, concerning which Mr. Samuel has invoked the aid of the Central Council for District Nursing, a contemporary states that probably for the first time within the recent municipal history of London the various Roman Catholic nursing institutions which are at present included in the voluntary system are to receive recognition from a State Department. For considerably more than half a century Catholic nurses in every way fully qualified to undertake the duties of tending the sick poor have worked in the thickly populated areas of London with no thought of reward or remuneration beyond a word of thanks from those whom they have been the means of restoring to health.

The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, and his Lordship the Bishop of Southwark, have approved of a comprehensive scheme for consolidating the efforts of these voluntary nurses and of increasing their utility. The

scheme inaugurated by Mr. Herbert Samuel provided that the Council was established to keep in touch as far as possible with the current provisions for district nursing, to consider the sufficiency of such provisions, and, so far as they might be enabled, to promote the efficiency and adequacy of the district nursing services throughout the country.

In connection with the proposal of Mr. Herbert Samuel, a Committee has been formed to prepare the preliminary details. The members include Bishop Amigo, nominated by the Provisional Committee; Mgr. Carton de Wiart and Mrs. Norman Moore, nominated by His Eminence Cardinal Bourne; Sir John Knill, President of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, nominated by the Sisters of Charity; and Mr. F. R. Anderton, nominated by the London County Council.

In Westminster, Southwark, and Vauxhall a number of nurses connected with lay voluntary Catholic nursing organizations are doing district nursing, and it is felt that by the consolidation of the work of these and other organizations, a large number of cases which now find their way into infirmaries and hospitals might be nursed at home.

District nurses are so poorly paid that it is quite impossible for them to provide for their old age, and it is the first duty of those who run County Nursing Associations, either to raise the emoluments of district nurses to a real living (which includes saving) wage, or to provide pensions for them. We are pleased to note that at the recent annual meeting of the Whitby District Nursing Association the question of pensions was brought forward by Mr. E. H. Chapman, who thought they owed it as a duty to their nurses to take out a policy whereby an annuity could be provided for their nurses when they reached a certain age. He spoke in warm praise of the nurses' work amongst the poor, which touched the great majority of the people of Whitby in a way which nothing else did. We are heartily in favour of these views, especially as so many self-respecting district nurses strongly object to being advertised as objects of charity through the unprofessional nursing press.

On January 21st, by the kind invitation of Miss Manning, a meeting of the Bath branch of the N.U.T.N. was held at Frett's Restaurant, Dr. Mary Morris in the chair. About forty members attended, many being unavoidably prevented owing to the present crisis. A business meeting was first held, at which the

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