

### NURSING ECHOES.

At a meeting for the nurses held at Chelsea Infirmary on the evening of May 27th, Miss Barton, Matron of the Infirmary, and Principal Matron No. 3 General Hospital (T.F.), who presided, said there was only one subject which one could meet to discuss at this crisis, and that was the war, and how each individually could best help their country and their Allies. Nurses should feel thankful that though they could not (as many of them would like to do) stand in the trenches themselves gun in hand, they could in a very special way help those who did find themselves in that glorious but awful position.

Miss Violetta Thurstan, who was the first speaker, gave a thrilling account of her experiences in Belgium and Russia.

Miss Cockrell, Matron of the Marylebone Infirmary, next read a very interesting paper on her experiences with the Belgian refugees. Miss Cockrell was asked as Matron to open the Poland Street refuge for the reception of Polish Jews, and when this was taken over by private enterprise, Miss Cockrell went as Matron to the Alexandra Palace, where she stayed till the place was taken over for German prisoners. During that time 30,000 refugees passed through the Palace.

The Matron-in-Chief (T.F.) spoke of the pleasure it was to hear the previous speakers, and to meet so many of the Territorial Staff, who were doing such good work at No. 3 (London) General Hospital.

Colonel Bruce Porter, Commanding Officer of the hospital, also expressed his pleasure in listening to these addresses. He referred to the difficulty of organizing work in a country where medical arrangements were practically non-existent, and of arranging for enormous crowds of refugees, such as Miss Cockrell had described, at short notice. He said he spoke with some degree of knowledge, as commanding officer of a large Territorial Hospital. He was very proud of No. 3, though no doubt it was not perfect and could learn from other hospitals, but he was sure no hospital could teach it the "humanity" side of the work.

Amongst those present were Miss Holden, Matron of No. 3 Hospital; Miss Ravor, Matron of King Albert's Hospital for Wounded Belgians; and Miss Amy Hughes, who received many congratulations on her new decoration as Lady of Grace.

At a recent meeting of the Bethnal Green Guardians, the Waterloo House and Infirmary Committee submitted a report from the Matron,

Miss Dodds, in regard to the salaries of Sisters. The Committee had informed her that the increase in the salaries of the Sisters to £36 was conditional upon two Sisters and thirteen probationers remaining at the military hospital. Miss Dodds points out there are none to leave, and this being so, the Sisters' salaries will be reduced to £32, while she had no reply to an advertisement for three Sisters at £36. Being unable to get Sisters, she cannot train extra probationers. At the Military Hospital she is advertising for Sisters at £50, and Staff nurses at £40, and it is not likely Sisters will stay at the Infirmary at a salary of £32. The matter was referred to a special meeting of the Infirmary Committee, with power to act. On such a question, a Committee is well advised if it is guided by the opinion of its Matron.

In this connection it is interesting to note some remarks on the question of salaries made by Mrs. H. B. Irving, a member of the St. Pancras Board of Guardians, at the recent annual Conference of Guardians for the Metropolitan Asylums District.

"One notices to-day that many girls, who would not have dreamt of even peeling a potato here in England in peace time, are quite prepared to go to Serbia or anywhere else sufficiently original, and volunteer to cook anything, anywhere, anyhow, if by so doing they can escape the dullness of the commonplace. It is that with which it is so hard to grapple, and our infirmary nurses have a great deal of it to bear. They *are* devoted and unselfish, but the work is fatiguing and the hours are long, and we shall not get the best women for the work if we continue to advertise for probationers, who will not be paid as much as a scullery maid, for very much harder and often less attractive work. . . . Though there must be a call, a vocation on the nurse's side, guardians ought to show that they think her work honourable by bringing her salary up to a modern living wage."

In the annual report of the Middlesbrough Nursing Association, just issued, the Committee express their cordial appreciation of the loyal assistance they have received from Miss Purvis and her staff, and of their unwearied efforts in the service of the sick poor. Those who know Miss Purvis know how well deserved such appreciation is.

The Lord Mayor of Norwich, in moving the adoption of the report of the Norwich District Nursing Association at the Annual Meeting, said it did a remarkably good and useful

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