

NURSING ECHOES.

The summer General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses will be held in the Clinical Lecture Theatre in the Medical School buildings on July 3rd at 2.30 p.m. The business will include reports from the Isla Stewart Memorial Committee, from the delegate of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, an account of the work at No. 1 General Hospital, Camberwell, and military nursing abroad. There will be music to enliven the Social Gathering, and the "War Tea," as is fitting, will be somewhat less sumptuous than in piping times of peace.

The following letter has been sent to the press by the Duke of Portland and the Earl of Plymouth conjointly:—

RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN HOSTEL FOR NURSES.

SIR,—Our nurses are rendering such priceless service to our men that we who sign this appeal hope to be put in a position to give something of real value to these devoted women. In close touch with Queen Alexandra's War Fund for Nurses of the Red Cross and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem we propose to start a hostel where nurses can be housed comfortably while seeking rest from their labours. The hostel will be provided for the use of nurses who come from the Front and for those in Home hospitals connected with the nursing of wounded sailors and soldiers, and it is also intended as a home where nurses intending to serve in the war either at home or abroad can be temporarily lodged. We have plenty of evidence that an urgent need exists for such an institution. Only the other day a party of nurses from one of the Dominions overseas had to be catered for at a very short notice, and there was no appropriate place to give them the due welcome and consideration they deserved. To give examples to prove the value of such a 'clearing house' those nurses needing serious attention would be sent at once to hospitals, others would remain in the hostel while undergoing dental or other minor treatment, while others would at once be put in communication with the many kind people who are ready to render them help and hospitality according to the wants and predilections of the nurses. In order that equipment and effort should prove of use after the war is over, it is hoped to develop later on the idea of a permanent hostel, where nurses can live at moderate cost and in congenial company. During the war we think that the hostel should be free. We have the option of a suitable house where thirty nurses can be accommodated, and in full confidence that our appeal will fall on sympathetic ears we ask for the necessary funds to equip and maintain it. A small Committee has been formed to carry out the above objects, and subscriptions payable to the

"Red Cross and St. John Hostel for Nurses" should be sent to the Hon. Treasurers at 3, Grosvenor Square, cheques crossed "London City and Midland Bank."—Yours, &c.,

PORTLAND.
PLYMOUTH.

3, Grosvenor Square, June 5th.

Everyone will desire that nurses who are engaged in the arduous work of attending to the sick and wounded should be comfortably housed while resting, and before being detailed for duty, but the question is not so simple as it appears at first sight, and is certainly one concerning which the promoters should take counsel with the nursing profession, as they contemplate establishing a permanent Hostel when the war is over.

There are at present a number of well-organized residential homes for nurses in London in connection with which nurses have invested their savings, with a view to self-support, and there is the Nurses' Hostel, run by a company in which a number of the shareholders are trained nurses. If their *clientèle* is diverted by benevolent persons, a fund to help the owners of these homes will next be necessary. We are aware that exception has been taken to the home to which many of the nurses waiting to proceed on active duty have been allotted, as unsuited to their requirements, but nurses cannot be adequately provided for at the cost of 10s. 6d. per week paid for them there, and it was certain that they would have to associate with uncongenial companions. While we have no desire to advocate luxury for nurses in war time, we are of opinion that they cannot be profitably provided for for less than 25s. per week, especially having regard to the increased cost of living; and accommodation in a number of homes can still be obtained for this sum, where their special requirements are sympathetically considered.

The Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association has compiled a record of special war service by its members. It comes to us embellished by a dainty string of the flags under which they are serving. The President, Miss E. C. Barton, points out that "in a record of this kind it is impossible to convey an idea of the extra 'war service' entailed on many of the Matrons who would so willingly have gone on active service themselves, yet had instead to give up the best of their Sisters and nurses for military duty, and with a curtailed staff carry on their usual work."

No section of the nursing world are doing more valuable work than the Poor Law

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