

NURSING ECHOES.

Several hospitals are arranging to give the nurses one whole day off in seven. We quite recognise it is right, but how we should have hated it when we were young and had to be hunted off duty.

We learn there is no need for criticism that two of the three Nursing College Scholarships were given to Thomas' Sisters. Very few suitable candidates applied for them. This we regret to learn, as we like people to thirst after knowledge.

We hear the Charing Cross "rise" has aroused much discussion in hospital Board rooms, and that it is probable the precedent will be generally followed.

We are not quite sure of the system employed by the London Homœopathic Hospital in the training of nurses, which undoubtedly produces the very type of nurse required in private practice. We speak with many years of personal experience as Hon. Superintendent of the Registered Nurses' Society, upon which staff the "Homœos" have always been held in special esteem. Whatever the system, there is no doubt whatever that it produces the sort of nurse most popular with the patients, and we don't need to doubt just what characteristics are appreciated by sick people. Knowledge and skill, of course, but knowledge and skill applied along with the true nursing spirit, which finds a sympathetic environment in the sick room, and conveys as much to the patient.

The Board of Management of the London Homœopathic Hospital have kept well up with the times. In 1911 they built, at a cost of £25,000, a fine Nurses' Home, providing each of the 70 nurses the privacy of a room for herself, and Recreation Rooms replete with every comfort. Very soon after the war the scale of remuneration of the Nurses was revised, and they now receive £17, £18, £20, and £28 for the four years' training.

The Board of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, Ventnor, have much pleasure in announcing that Lady Madden has most generously placed her beautiful house, Southwold, St. Lawrence, at the service of the management as a temporary home for the nursing staff, so releasing a block of buildings hitherto occupied by the nurses, and increasing the accommodation at the hospital from 160 to

177 beds, to meet in a measure the great demand for treatment of sailors and soldiers invalided home from the war.

A new nurses' home is to be built immediately after the declaration of peace, and the Board appeals for funds for this good work.

We are glad to note the August *Nursing Journal for India* contains the very able letter, written by Miss Beatrice Kent on "British Nurses and their Fight for Professional Freedom." We hope Miss Kent will keep the professional nursing press throughout the world well informed on nursing politics at home, as so few nurses in these overpowering days have time to dive into economic matters, which so nearly affect the welfare of the nursing profession as a whole—and as social influence and cash count for so much in England, working women must not be led away by specious arguments and charity doles. If they wish to be independent they must pay their own way.

Our American cousins can no longer in justice call THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING "a voice calling in the wilderness," as they have so aptly done for so many years. All at once, after "a long, long wail" of 25 years, everyone to whom its policy was anathema for so long seems to be clamouring for the fulfilment of its programme—Organization of Nursing Education and Registration by the State, Better Home Conditions and Pay, Shorter Hours of Labour, More Thorough Practical Training, Sister Teachers educated for the purpose, Nursing Colleges (but no monopoly), International Amenities—all these professional privileges have been claimed by THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for a quarter of a century, and now the "antis" and their press are just tumbling over one another (without acknowledgment, of course) to carry into effect our precepts—even if they are somewhat shaky about the principles. The one essential principle these people have yet to realise and concede is the right of the nurses to self-determination, self-expression, and self-reliance. We are now looking forward to the time when the pap feeding of "Pumblechook" will be recognised as conducive to professional decadence, and each nurse will be entrusted with her own knife and fork. Then indeed "the Voice" will have made itself heard in the wilderness to some effect, and the special characteristic of our race—tenacity of purpose—be proved once more an unconquerable asset.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)