

## NURSING ECHOES.

We are glad to see the King's Fund has recognised the great need which exists at the Great Northern Central Hospital for better accommodation for the nurses. According to the published list of awards, the Great Northern is to receive six thousand pounds, one thousand of which is towards the building of the Nurses' Home. Everyone will agree that the nurses deserve all that can be done for them in recognition of their invaluable services.

Miss Yapp, Matron, Lake Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne Union, has been voted a gratuity of £100 for extra duties rendered in connection with military patients during the past three years.

This seems an excellent idea; it is recommended as an example to other Boards of Guardians. We hear that, owing to lack of domestic and other workers, the Matrons in many hospitals and infirmaries have been greatly overstrained. A nice little cheque would mean rest and a change of scene, to say nothing of the gratification of having extra work recognised and practically appreciated. Hurry up hospital governors and Guardians with these little hundred pound cheques!

The West Derby Guardians have decided to send letters of thanks and appreciation to certain members of the nursing staff of Mill Road Infirmary, in respect of the admirable, self-sacrificing and untiring services which they had so willingly rendered at great risk to themselves, in helping to cope so successfully with the epidemic of influenza which has swept over the country, and which has thrown so much heavy work upon the hospital staffs. Similar letters had previously been sent by the Guardians in respect of the same excellent and humane work rendered by members of the nursing staffs at the Walton and other hospitals of the Board.

In reply to several correspondents, the address of the Edith Cavell Homes of Rest is 25, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1. The whole £30,000 it was originally intended to collect has been subscribed, but the scheme has been extended; instead of giving 120 nurses a month's rest annually, accommodation is now provided for 500—so more subscriptions are

required. During demobilisation the work will be very strenuous, but when nurses and V.A.D.'s are again absorbed in the general routine of duty we should not suppose that 500 beds will be required, especially if nurses are better paid, as they should be—trained and in training. At present, after war strain and owing to quite inadequate salaries, the Cavell Homes—which are most generously conducted—are a source of much happiness and comfort to the guests received. For those desirous of assisting by making collections, collecting cards and boxes are available from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Wallace Braby.

Miss Elizabeth Gordon Fox, in an admirable article on "War and the Public Health Nurse," which appears in the *Johns Hopkins Nurses' Magazine*, writes:—

"Perhaps the most imperative and biggest disease problem of the war is the prevention of venereal diseases. Mobilisation of great armies has always, in the past, been accompanied by the assembling of great numbers of prostitutes around the camps, resulting in much incapacity in the Army and enormous increase in the venereal diseases both among the soldiers and the civil population with which the soldiers mingle. The Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, the United States Public Health Service and the State Boards of Health, recognising the enormous importance of the control of this evil, have worked out a co-operative plan under Government leadership. The Army has enforced strict measures for the suppression of commercialised vice in the zones surrounding the cantonments. In the sanitary zone venereal clinics have been established for the diagnosis and treatment of the civil population. Prostitutes are being confined in detention homes until free from infection. In these clinics and in the detention homes, public health nurses are doing excellent work. The Government and many of the States working together are planning a great expansion of educational and dispensary work directed toward thorough control of venereal diseases. In this extensive proposition, public health nurses will have an important part to play. We are painfully aware of the fact that we have had little sound teaching in our training school days concerning venereal disease as a public health and social problem. In order that our future graduates may be better prepared to take their part in waging the battle against these diseases, a series of lectures have been prepared, to be given to the seniors in all our training schools. The aid of every public health nurse is needed in this great undertaking. But we must familiarise ourselves with our part in it before we can give much intelligent help."

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