

NURSING ECHOES.

Telegrams and letters are still reaching our office expressing delight at the passing of the Nursing Acts, the senders of which are eagerly awaiting information "How to Register." Next week we propose to take the Acts clause by clause, and explain simply their significance. Nothing further can be done until the General Nursing Councils are appointed, and they have met (as provided in each Act) to consult about the Rules for Registration. A term of two years' grace is provided for in the Acts, during which time nurses who are of good character, and who have been engaged in practice as nurses in attendance on the sick *under conditions which appear to the Council satisfactory*, for at least three years, may register. The Council must, therefore, satisfy itself of the character and qualifications of every nurse placed upon the State Register—a great responsibility, requiring an enormous amount of expert work. After the two years' term of grace, nurses desiring to register will be required to pass the State examination, as defined by the Council.

The registered nurses will, in the future, be under the jurisdiction of Nursing Councils, responsible in England to the Ministry of Health, in Scotland to the Board of Health, and in Ireland to the Council of Health; and these three Councils should keep in close touch with one another, so as to secure a uniform standard of qualifications in all parts of the United Kingdom.

We note that the Anti-Registration Press and its unprofessional critics are still attempting to delude nurses who waste money on it. Our advice to trained nurses is to rank up shoulder to shoulder, and build up their profession into the finest work for women under the sun.

The Panel of Emergency District Nurses for London has now been established, and a large number of nurses have applied to be enrolled. Particulars have been obtained, references taken up, and nurses applying interviewed by Miss Amy Hughes, one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Central Council for District Nursing in London, and twenty-six approved names have been entered on the Panel. District Nursing Organisations in London desirous of obtaining the services of a nurse, either for a short or long period, should apply to the Assistant Secretary to the Council (Miss Pollock), c/o the City Parochial Foundation, 3, Temple Gardens, E.C. 4.

The City of Westminster Union Infirmary at Hendon has been taken over by the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and will, in the future, be known as the Colindale Hospital. It is to be used for the treatment of tuberculosis cases. We hope, for the sake of the patients, Miss Elma Smith and her experienced staff will remain in charge of the Nursing Department. No doubt under the new Ministry of Health there will be more effective classification of disease, and by a system of reciprocity it should not be difficult to organise a curriculum of teaching for its nurses, which will provide them with practical experience in general, fever, communicable, and maternity cases, and thus give them a very thorough training preparatory to their Central Examination. We foresee all sorts of educational advantages for nurses in the future.

The Penal Reform League is authorised to give the following particulars of the new nursing scheme for prisons, the necessity for which it urged through a deputation to the Home Secretary in March last:—

The Commissioners have obtained authority of the Treasury for a Nursing Scheme in Prisons. As regards the male staff, the members of the hospital staff have generally had experience in the R.A.M.C., or in the Sick Berths of the Royal Navy. They, however, undergo special training in prison nursing at Parkhurst Prison, where there is a large hospital. On being passed as fit, they are posted for duty as nurses and receive additional pay. The intention is to have at least one such officer at every prison.

As regards the female staff, a special training school will be formed at Holloway Prison for instruction in nursing, under a Hospital Lady Superintendent of high qualifications and experience. Six months' training will be undergone, after which a further three months will be spent at the London Hospital. When finally reported as fit, the nurse will be appointed in that rank and will draw additional pay. It is the intention that there shall be at least one nurse at each female prison, and there will be a reserve at Holloway, for duty at any moment at any prison where emergency may arise, for nursing either male or female prisoners.

"We welcome," states the League, "this scheme as the beginning of better things in prison hospitals. But we cannot disguise our regret that so much of the training should be under prison conditions. The sick prisoners' needs are the same as those of any other patient, and the same skill is required to meet them. Moreover,

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