

NURSING ECHOES.

The Hon. Editor expresses her sincere gratitude to the little group of voluntary helpers and contributors who have made it possible to continue the indispensable work carried on by THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING during the past year. In this connection the names of Miss M. Breay, Miss H. Hawkins, Miss Isabel Macdonald, Miss B. Kent, Miss Taylor, and Mrs. Jessop are first and foremost, as they have placed their talents and business capacity at the service of their profession in the most generous manner possible. It is the freedom from commercialism which has placed the B.J.N. in the unique position to which it has attained. It is free to speak the truth without fear or favour.

The Trained Women Nurses Friendly Society, entirely managed by trained nurses, has been notified by the Insurance Societies Department of the Ministry of Health that the valuation taken to the end of 1918 shows a surplus of over £8,000. This proves that its business has been admirably managed, and that if nurses in larger numbers insured in this Society, its assets would be on a footing to admit of very substantial additional benefits.

The meeting of inquiry to be held by the Minister of Labour, on Wednesday, January 5th, at 8, Richmond Terrace, Whitehall, in connection with trained nurses and the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, is arousing keen interest in nursing circles, and the only pity is that before lumping professional nurses into the Act "inquiry" was not made by the Labour Ministry as to how it would affect them!

To quote from the *London Gazette* :—

"Whereas on the 3rd December, 1920, the Minister of Labour gave notice of his intention to decide the question as to whether the employment by a hospital, supported out of voluntary contributions, of a person as—

- (1) A 'Sister,'
- (2) A Staff or Trained Nurse,
- (3) A Probationer Nurse,

is such employment as to make that person an employed person within the meaning of the Act, and especially, whether such employment is employment in domestic service, and further gave notice that persons claiming to be interested could, on or before the 17th December, 1920, make representations in writing, or apply to be heard orally in connection with this question,

"Now, therefore, the Minister of Labour hereby gives notice that an inquiry will be held

at 8, Richmond Terrace, on Wednesday, 5th January, 1921, at 11 a.m. in the forenoon.

"All persons claiming to be interested may attend to make oral representations on the above date at the time and place mentioned. Names and addresses of all persons wishing to attend the hearing must be received by the Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Employment Department, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.1, not later than 2nd January, 1921. Failure to comply with this may entail refusal of a hearing."

The Battersea Borough Council have sanctioned the appointment of two health visitors at salaries of £300 each per annum, also the appointment of two Sisters and two staff nurses, salaries £75 and £65 each, per annum, respectively, with board, washing, lodging and uniform.

The Devonport Board of Guardians, at a recent meeting, appear to have perturbed themselves unnecessarily about the future training of nurses—as provided in the Rules drafted by the General Nursing Council. It seems the Ministry of Health has approved the appointment of eight probationers, but it could not recognise the Ford House institution as a training centre for nurses. Thereupon the chairman had an interview with Dr. Fuller of the Ministry of Health, and reported "that Dr. Addison, on behalf of the Ministry, had accepted the view put forward by the Nursing Council as to the future training of nurses, and after a date in November, 1922, no nurses would be allowed to sit for examinations, however qualified they might be, unless they had had four years' training in institutions, three years of which must be in an institution where there was a resident medical officer and not less than 200 beds. On and after that date no local authorities would be allowed to engage nurses who had not got those qualifications.

The result was there was hardly a hospital they knew of in the West of England where nurses would be able to be trained. They discussed the question as to what would be likely to happen in a hospital like Ford House, and what the Board would have to be prepared to do to run it. They could still have a superintendent nurse, and there was nothing to prevent them engaging the same number of women and girls and calling them assistants. But they would not be nurses, and they would not be able to become qualified as nurses.

Now of course the Rules make no such provisions. The term of grace for "existing nurses" must last for two years after the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)