

that adopted by the greater number of Training Schools, add the daily required hour for study (which is only more difficult work), and we have at once a working day of $11\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Add to this one night weekly a class, and one night weekly a lecture, and there are 2 days in which the Nurses are working at least $12\frac{1}{2}$ hours. A half-day during the week is usually given, but that must be always partially devoted to study. Frequently it is unavoidable that this also comes on lecture day.

As there is some little irregularity in the length of days, a simpler method is to get at the number of working hours per week. Take as an example the $10\frac{1}{2}$ hour day—allow for a half-day and a half of Sunday, add the daily hour of study, and you have on 5 days weekly $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours, or $52\frac{1}{2}$ per week; on 2 days weekly, 6 hours or more), or 12 per week; 2 days weekly, class and lecture, or 2 per week; daily study, 1 hour, or 7 per week, and you have a working week of $73\frac{1}{2}$ hours or more according to the amount of time given on Sundays. In our statistics, 41 schools do not give half-days on Saturdays. In such instances the working time would amount to from 75 to 78 hours per week. In many schools the working hours are much longer than those quoted.

There is no other work sufficiently like Nursing to serve adequately for purposes of comparison, but to take the first that comes to mind it may be said that from 56 to 60 hours a week are generally considered fair working hours for the labouring men. I believe I am right in stating that few industries require their employes to work more than 10 hours daily, and their Sundays are usually free. We cannot actually compare industries with Training Schools, nor wage-earners with pupils receiving their training in an educational institution, but we can state that a pupil in a Training School may work harder to receive her training than a labouring man to support his wife and family, for here we find, in one of the most difficult and responsible careers a woman can undertake, that her only method of receiving a certain kind of education is not to work 60 hours per week, but a number of hours varying from that number to 105 hours. In calculating the hours per week, we are able to make the following statistics:—

Number of schools in which the number of working hours is below 60, 4. (The exact number of hours, as nearly as can be made out, is 59, and there is in these schools but little class work, and no mention is made of studies.) Number of schools in which the number of working hours is from 60 to 70, 54; from 70 to 80, 40; from 80 to 90, 10; from 90 to 100, 1; over 100, 1.

(To be continued.)

Nursing Echoes.

* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



It is to be hoped that every member of the Royal British Nurses' Association will recognise the true significance of the new Council, suggested by the Hon. Officers of the Association, and, as usual, subscribed to without enquiry by the majority of the members before signature.

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Thirty medical men have been compulsorily removed, for the first time, and of course amongst the list are the names of all those gentlemen who have had the courage of their opinions in opposing the official policy; every member of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association, with one exception, having been swept off the list.

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It will be remembered with gratitude by the older members of the R.B.N.A. who worked for, and won the Charter, that this Association was the only Medical Society which supported the Nurses' claims, and that they obtained the support of *twelve hundred medical men all over the kingdom*, who petitioned the Privy Council in favour of granting a Charter—a circumstance which did much, we have no doubt, to persuade the Privy Council that our claims were just. But the present officials evidently believe that gratitude is "only a lively sense of *future favours*."

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Amongst the other medical men thus removed is the name of the Medical Superintendent of the Chelsea Infirmary, and yet it is most significant that at the same time, the Council has been "packed" with ten Nurses from this institution. We cannot think that the active part taken by Miss de Pledge, the Matron of the Infirmary, in such a proceeding can possibly conduce to the internal discipline of that Institution. Her action, and that of the Nurses under her control, will be recognised, no doubt, at its true significance by the ejected Medical Superintendent and his colleagues.

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