

Nursing Echoes.



The Matrons' Council has invited the Nurses' Societies interested in the Registration Bill to appoint delegates to meet it in conference, on Friday, the 6th inst. Several important questions will be under consideration; a representative meeting is expected.

The Secretary of the War Office announces that existing vacancies on this Reserve will be filled at once.

RATES OF PAY WHEN CALLED UP FOR DUTY.

	Initial Rate.	Annual Increase.	Maximum.
	£	£ s. d.	£
Matron	75	10 0 0	150
Sister	50	5 0 0	65
Staff Nurse ...	40	2 10 0	45

Retaining fee, £2 per annum.

Applicants must be of good social position, and between the ages of 26 and 45, and must possess a certificate of not less than three years' training and service in medical and surgical nursing in a civil hospital.

Full particulars as to the conditions of service and forms of application for admission can be obtained by applying to the Secretary, War Office, Whitehall, S.W., or personally to the Matron-in-Chief, at the same address, who will see candidates on Tuesdays and Thursdays between ten a.m. and one p.m.

At a meeting held last week at 120, Victoria Street, of the Council of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, Lord Goschen presiding, reports from the various sub-committees were considered, and affiliation was granted to district nursing associations at Babraham, Cambs, Birstall, Hemsworth, and Whickham, Yorks, and Highgate, N.; also in Ireland at Cashel and Maynooth, and the Belfast and Cork branches of the Women's National Health Association.

The names of 56 nurses have been submitted to the Queen for appointment as Queen's Nurses for the quarter ended October 1st.

The following appointments by her Majesty were formally reported:—The Duke of Devonshire as president of the Institute, in succession to the Rev. A. L. B. Peile, Master of St. Katharine's, and the Duke of Norfolk and Lord Rothschild as trustees, with the Duke of Portland and Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Fleetwood Edwards.

Much regret is being felt amongst Matrons in Ireland who have worked so hard to uphold a rising standard of training for nurses, that the new Health Nurses whom it is proposed by the Countess of Aberdeen shall combat tuberculosis in Ireland are to be "less highly trained" than Queen's Nurses. Cheapness is, we are informed, the keynote of this really disastrous step, which is, we fear, being countenanced by the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, the reason advanced in Ireland being that £100, the cost of a thoroughly trained and efficient nurse is too much to pay the sort of nurse required. A well-known Matron in Ireland writes: "The effects on the training-schools will be bad, and unless something unforeseen happens the state of nursing in a few years will be worse than it was 40 years ago!"

Insufficient training is not the only evil arising out of the social, as apart from professional, control of a large class of trained workers, and the affiliation of the village nurse with a few months' experience by the Q.V.J.I., some years ago cut at the root of an ample supply of really efficient, well-trained district nurses, and has already created a large body of insufficiently trained, ill-paid women workers in England. It will, indeed, be very regrettable if Scotland and Ireland are to be compelled to follow suit. We know the almost insuperable difficulty of raising the funds for the salary of a thoroughly trained nurse in some of the scattered rural districts, but we should like to see local efforts subsidised from a central source, not lowered standards accepted.

In the United States, where the Tuberculosis Nurse was first instituted, to instruct the people in sanitary laws, and care for patients suffering from the white plague, the best educated and all-round well-trained woman was the woman selected to do this pioneer work, where a thorough knowledge of scientific nursing, based on sanitation and hygiene, is imperative if the tuberculosis nurse is to be an effective health missionary. We sympathise with those Irish Matrons who resent a class of semi-trained women being deputed to undertake this responsible work.

A deserving society, much in need of help at the present time, is the Jewish Sick Room Help Society and Nurses' Home, 61, Philpot Street, E. Not one penny is expended on administration; a band of enthusiastic women undertake this arduous honorary work; even to the accounts, which in pence register this year £936. This sum represents the hard-earned pence of the poor mothers

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)