

### Nursing Echoes.



The nineteenth Annual Report of the Council of the Institute to the Queen as Patron states that the demand for the services of Queen's Nurses throughout the United Kingdom has steadily increased, and at the present time is beyond the normal rate of supply. At the end of 1908 there were 829 district nursing associations and twenty-two county associations employing 1,617 Queen's Nurses, excluding a large number of nurses in training, village nurses, and midwives. The accounts for last year show an expenditure of £11,296, the principal items being on training, £4,829, and inspection, £2,714.

The London Education Committee of the London County Council resumed its sittings on Wednesday. It is proposed that the School Nurses in the employ of the Council shall in future be provided with a nurses' uniform. The Sub-Committee understand that respect is paid to the uniform of a nurse, and that nurses are protected thereby from insults to which they would be liable in visiting homes in certain localities. Moreover (say the Sub-Committee) the wearing of the uniform of the Council by the School Nurses would be an indication to parents that the nurses are the regular officers of the Council, and that it would be useless to attempt an evasion of the Council's regulations by removing children from school to school as it would be known that the Nurses attend all the schools. A further advantage from the supply of these uniforms is that the wearing of washable clothing by the nurses would be ensured.

About fifty members of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry Corps, which has now 120 members, rode through some of the West End streets last Saturday afternoon. At the rear of the corps was a fully equipped ambulance waggon, driven and handled by lady troopers of the corps.

At the annual meeting of the Norfolk Nursing Federation last week, held at the Town Hall, Wymondham, at which the Countess of Albemarle presided, the report presented dealt largely with the midwifery question. The Committee stated that it desires to call attention to the very serious position of the county

at the present time. There are 696 parishes in Norfolk, and of these only 187 are in any sense provided with midwives. This is a serious outlook for the county in view of the Midwives' Act, and the Committee feels compelled to call attention to it.

Mr. E. R. M. Pratt, who moved the adoption of the report, said that the fatal year 1910 was very near. He called it the fatal year, because it would be more or less fatal to all the uncertificated women now practising as midwives in the county. As the report showed, there was still a large margin of nurses to be provided. No woman acting as a maternity or sick nurse in a country district could earn more than £10 or £20 a year; and no trained nurse, of course, could be expected to live on a sum like that. The only chance of obtaining trained help was to offer the nurse a proper salary, and secure it to her for a definite time.

Dr. Buchanan, the medical officer of the Salford Union Hope Hospital, at a meeting of the Committee, asked for the appointment of an examiner for the probationary nurses at the conclusion of their term of training. He pointed out the necessity of having an outside appointment to bring the institution into line with other recognised schools for the teaching of nurses. The Rev. J. M'Crae said that an examiner was required, or in time the institution would restrict itself to uncertified nurses, as it was not in line with the nursing profession. The consideration of the matter was deferred a fortnight, in connection with the question of the expenses of the examination being defrayed by the nurses.

The Middlesbrough Nursing Association, under the able superintendence of Miss Purvis, are able to show an excellent record of work for the past year. The Committee report that the district nurses nursed 1,061 cases, and paid 28,934 visits during the year. Of these 817 recovered, 157 died, 30 were transferred to hospital or sanatorium, 5 were removed from the books, and 51 were still under the nurses' care at the beginning of 1909. There were 345 parish cases, but owing to the great depression of trade, it was not only the parish cases who needed other assistance as well as nursing. With few exceptions the District Nurses' patients required nourishment, clothing, and other necessaries, which, as far as possible, were supplied to them. The work has been greatly increased by the fact that typhoid fever has prevailed to some extent in various parts of the town, and especially in North Ormesby.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)