

Nursing Echoes.



spent a few years ago.

We are pleased to note that Liverpool has decided not to pauperise its nurses as a memorial to Miss Nightingale, although the Rev. T. W. M. Lund, seconded by Sir James Barr, very nearly succeeded in persuading the meeting at the Liverpool Town Hall to perpetuate her memory by erecting a home for aged and worn-out nurses, instead of by creating a seventh nursing home in the city to be known by her name. Mr. Lund's amendment was rejected by the narrow majority of two.

Nursing sentiment will be with Mr. John Lea, who felt that at the end of their days Queen's nurses should not have to look forward to living in homes "for worn-out nurses," but should receive just remuneration for their hard work, or should have adequate pensions to enable them to live where and how they please.

Mr. H. R. Rathbone said that nurses were badly paid, but nearly all women's work was badly paid, and nurses were no worse off than others. Sir James Barr said many nurses had nothing but a prospect of the workhouse before them when too old to work.

Mr. N. Fitzpatrick, writing in the *Liverpool Daily Post*, states that "many are the cases which have come to my knowledge of aged nurses, crippled or invalided, who have spent their declining years in one room trying to exist on a bare pittance, often on the charity of friends, and these women, the majority of them brought up in refinement, suffer the more acutely because in silence."

What other result can be expected from an economic system which assesses a certificated nurse's salary at £30 a year, and a rural nurse's at nothing. As the few shillings paid the latter are insufficient for food and comfort-

able personal needs, nothing can be reckoned as salary. This sweating of district nurses and midwives is of urgent economic importance, and it is high time that the wholesale manufacture of women paupers in the name of philanthropy should be stopped. The Liverpool memorial meeting afforded a very useful opportunity for giving publicity to this question, and let us hope it will touch up the public conscience.

It has been decided that the Brighton Memorial to the late King, to be provided by public subscription, shall take the form (1) of a permanent memorial to be placed in a suitable position in the town, and (2) of the provision of a building for a Home for the Queen's Nurses in Brighton, and that any sum collected in excess of these requirements shall be applied to the endowment of the local branch of Queen's Nurses. High testimony was paid by Mr. G. S. Godfree, sen., who proposed the resolution embodying these suggestions, to the splendid work done by the Queen's Nurses in Brighton, and the decision to build the Home will be generally approved.

The medical inspection of school children does not appear to commend itself to some of the mothers of Belper, who also resent the classification of children by the school nurse as "verminous." To demonstrate their disapproval a number of the mothers recently assembled outside the Pottery Schools armed with tin pans and other like implements and beat a metallic tattoo during the nurse's visit to the school, in consequence of which she was detained for some time. A detachment of indignant mothers also assembled outside another school, but the Chairman of the School Council, Miss Deacon, with other officials, appeared on the scene, and induced the women to disperse by warning them of the serious consequences of their conduct if they persisted in it. The names of several of the ringleaders were taken, and it is possible that proceedings in the police court may follow. The life of a school nurse is not all roses. Cannot some tactful person put it to the mothers whether they consider it worse for children to be verminous or to be *classified* as such.

The question of soliciting subscriptions in an institution for gifts to officials, from nurses and members of the domestic staff, is a debatable one. When a Matron, Assistant Matron, or Sister retires who has held office for many years there may be a general and spontaneous desire on the part of the nursing staff to pre-

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