

## NURSING ECHOES.

We have to thank Miss A. Lee-Smith, Superintendent of Queens' Nurses at Torquay, for the charming snapshot of Miss Mollett, with Miss Sutherland and Miss Creighton, delegates of the National Councils of New Zealand and India respectively, taken at Cologne. The delegates are carrying the beautiful sheaves of Mary lilies presented to them by Sister Agnes Karll, President of the International Council of Nurses, on behalf of the German Nurses' Association.

It has been known for some time that the Local Government Board have under consideration a Draft Order which may affect the position and work of the Matrons under their direction — expert officials, who, by the bye, have not been consulted concerning suggested regulations relating to their department. It is to be hoped that before any new regulations are adopted, which affect the important department of nursing, that an opportunity will be given to those who know most about the matter, to express an opinion.

While the State maintains its policy of inaction in regard to the standardization of nursing education, the units which compose it are feeling the need for such standardization so acutely that they are endeavouring to cope with the problem themselves. At a Conference of Poor Law union representatives held last week at Newcastle-on-Tyne, eight Poor Law unions in Northumberland, ten in Durham, and two in Cumberland were represented. Mr. John Davidson, Chairman of the Newcastle Board of Guardians, presided, and Mr. Gladstone Walker, Clerk to the Guardians, suggested that the unions in the four northern counties should combine and appoint a committee to

formulate a plan of training, and appoint an examining body, whose duty it would be, within its area, to define the particular subjects necessary for the efficient training of nurses and hold examinations for the nurse's final certificate. It was well known that, owing to the different standards set by examiners, a probationer would fail to pass the test at Newcastle and yet gain the qualification in another district. It was ultimately agreed "That this Conference approves of the standardization of certification of Poor Law nurses within the four northern counties." The opinion of the Matrons of the training schools was apparently not invited.

Nothing has done so much to remove the dread which the poor at one time entertained—and with justice—of Poor Law infirmaries than the entry into their wards of trained nurses. Now they readily enter the wards of a well-managed infirmary for treatment and care. Indeed, Mr. J. Sumner - Dury, who read an instructive paper at the annual Poor Law Conference for the South West District on The Use and Abuse of Poor Law In-



MISS SUTHERLAND, MISS MOLLETT, MISS CREIGHTON.

firmaries, said that he looked forward to a still fuller use being made of them by the sick poor, and urged that there should be compulsory power to remove old-age pensioners to the infirmary when the state of their homes and their condition rendered it desirable. He went on to show that infirmaries might be abused. "When the deterrent aspect of Workhouse infirmaries is thoroughly removed," he said "the danger will be that there may be less difficulty in getting suitable cases to use them than in keeping others out. Indeed, if we believe some of the statements made to the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws, that difficulty has already arisen in some Unions, and unless the State makes medical treatment a free and national service, like elementary education, to which everyone is equally entitled, there appears to be

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