

SCHOOL NURSING.

A branch of nursing which is rapidly increasing is School Nursing in connection with public elementary schools. In London the special service under the London County Council, under the superintendence of Miss H. L. Pearse, is steadily increasing in numbers, and recently four additional Assistant Superintendents have been appointed to deal with the increased work. The nurses are required to have a three years' certificate of training, and their work is very specialized and of great national importance. The salaries paid to the nurses do not compare favourably with those of teachers working under the same authority, and though they have been slightly raised this year, so that a nurse who begins at £80 rises by annual increments to £105, instead of £90 as heretofore, yet taking into consideration the cost of living in London, it will be realized that the commencing salary should be raised if the best class of nurses are to be attracted. Further, the increase of salary must not be entirely regarded as increase of pay, as more hours of work are exacted.

In the provinces the office of School Nurse is often combined with that of Health Visitor, Tuberculosis Inspector, or Inspector of Midwives, such nurses usually working under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health in connection with Health and Education Departments. The combination of midwifery with school nursing is not desirable, owing to the constant likelihood of contact with infection in the schools.

NURSES' SOCIAL UNION.

We are informed that the Nurses' Social Union has had a very successful year. There has been a steady influx of new members, and a continually increasing demand for new branches.

The new Constitution, providing for Full and Associate Membership, the former to be a three years' certificate, and the granting of distinctive badges, was ratified by the Council in April, and will be adopted by all branches at the close of the year 1912.

Miss Amy Hughes, General Superintendent Q.V.J.I., remains President. Among the newly-elected Vice-Presidents and Members of the Council are Miss Gibson, late Matron, Birmingham Infirmary; Miss Rogers, late Matron, Leicester Infirmary; Mrs. Kanthack de Voss, late Sister, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; and the Hon. Albinia Brodrick.

Miss Haughton, Matron, Guy's Hospital, has become President of the London Division

of the Union, and Miss Gibson its Honorary Organiser.

The Exhibition held at Bristol in June was organised and chiefly carried out by members of the Union. It proved most successful from all points of view, and much praise and gratitude were accorded to the workers, as also to the helpers who took charge of the N.S.U. Exhibits at the Gloucester Exhibition in October.

New branches have been formed in the following areas:—Richmond (Surrey), Southsea, Gloucester, Cornwall, and Leeds. It is expected that within a few months several other new centres will organise branches.

The special work of this Union is to associate nurses and others together for the furtherance of social improvement in the community, especially in relation to the national health.

THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The Nurses' Missionary League, which is a wholesome agency in keeping alive ideals in the nursing profession, has now a membership of over 1,800 members, 588 of whom are volunteers for active service in the mission field, 204 being already abroad. The success of the League is, indeed, causing some anxiety to its committee, for there is an urgent necessity for enlarged headquarters to meet its growing needs if the development of the work is not to be hindered, which entails a larger income.

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

The National Insurance Act, which came into force on July 15th, 1912, is the first Act in which the small earnings of nurses have been directly taxed. As they are compelled to insure, trained nurses have endeavoured to form a Society of their own, the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society, of which the management is in professional hands. Here again they must realize that, with some notable exceptions, the Governors of hospitals have swept their nurses into the Nurses' Insurance Society, which is practically a branch of the Prudential Society, concerning which it is not necessary to notify that all the well-paid posts provided by the nurses' money have been given to men.

THE EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENT.

The Bill for the State Registration of Nurses has again been introduced into the House of Commons by the Right Hon. R. C. Munro-Ferguson, M.P., but, as it did not gain a place in the ballot, no time could be granted for its second reading in the present turmoil of politics. Great efforts must therefore be made in the future to impress the Government with the national importance of the question of pro-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)