

NURSING ECHOES.

As we announce in our editorial article, our issue on April 19th will be our Special Silver Jubilee Number, in commemoration of the twenty-five years in which this journal has served the nursing profession. We ask all our readers to help to make this commemoration a great success by ordering beforehand extra copies of this issue from the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., and sending them, on publication, to some of their friends and acquaintances, asking them to become subscribers in the future. It is important that orders for these extra journals should be placed as soon as possible, so that arrangements may be made for the extra issue.

A correspondent holding an influential position in the nursing world writes:—"How I wish State registration would come. Those of us who are 'out in the world' and move about a good deal see more and more what awful people, and untrained ones, wear our uniform and call themselves trained. What is more, they are recommended by doctors and take the same fees as 'the genuine article.' Nurses are not allowed to work with quack doctors, why should doctors work with and recommend quack nurses?"

The truth is that until there is a minimum standard of education defined for nurses, and a register of those who have attained it, it is most difficult for doctors to know who are and who are not fully qualified. Those who are accustomed to investigate the qualifications and references of nurses know how long this takes to do efficiently, and busy doctors cannot possibly spare the time.

The difficulty of obtaining suitable candidates as probationers, and their depreciation in quality, was illustrated by the report of Miss du Sautoy, Superintendent, presented at the annual meeting of the Somerset Nursing Association, recently held at Taunton. Alluding to the dearth of suitable applicants for training as village nurses, Miss du Sautoy attributed it to the fact that hospitals and infirmaries, in order to keep up their staffs, have now to admit for training the class of women who formerly, for various reasons, were not eligible, and who, wishing to become nurses, applied to county nursing associations to be trained as village nurses.

At the same meeting, the Countess of Selborne, for whose opinions as a rule we have a sincere respect, alluding to the shortage of nurses, attributed it in part to an inclination of the Midwives' Board to put the examination rather high. The Midwives' Board have nothing to do with defining standards for nurses, but of course it is well known that the nursing of many rural villages is done by midwives with a smattering of elementary nursing knowledge. It is a pity that patronesses of nursing associations should attempt to define nursing standards of which they are not competent to judge, and are satisfied to supply to the poor, women whose professional knowledge would not satisfy them if ill themselves. The Central Midwives' Board state that their standard for midwives is the lowest compatible with the safety of the patients, and this we heartily endorse. When the standard for midwives is adopted for that of nurses of the sick, we have no hesitation in saying it is incompatible with the safety of the patient.

The *National Weekly* has followed up its article on "Hospital Slaves" by another on "The Sweated Nurse" in its issue of March 22nd. They are evidently written by one who has observed the work of the hospital nurse from the inside. Referring to the large amount of ward work done by nurses, the writer considers it may be "a fine form of physical exercise, but one can have too much of a good thing, and this is far too much for girls who cannot sit down with their hands in their laps, like domestic servants in the afternoon, but who have still in front of them several hours of toil, not made easier, at the bedside of suffering patients, because all this scrubbing and polishing has caused cuts and bruises to knuckles and fingers, and rubbed off the fine delicacy of a woman's touch, and made her ready to 'drop with fatigue.'"

Mrs. Radford Pym, Sheringham, has handed over to trustees a delightful cottage for the use of the parish nurse, explaining, at the ceremony at which the gift was made, that after recovery from a severe illness, and recuperation at Sheringham, she made a vow to present the town with a tangible thank-offering. To emphasise that the gift is not connected with any one form of religious belief, the trustees include ministers of all denominations, and vary from the Roman Catholic mission priest on the one hand to the local leader of the Salvation Army on the other.

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