

NURSING ECHOES.

A meeting representing the following Branches of the nursing profession was convened by the National Union of Trained Nurses at their Offices, 39, Great Smith Street, Westminster, on June 12th:—

- Hospital Nurses.
- District Nurses.
- Poor Law Nurses.
- Private Nursing Institutions.
- The National Council of Trained Nurses.
- The National Union of Trained Nurses.
- Nurse-Midwives.

The following resolutions were passed:—

It is the opinion of this meeting that the following resolutions should be submitted to the Insurance Commissioners:—

1. That self-governing bodies of Trained Nurses should be represented on the Advisory and Conjoint Insurance Committees.

They beg to call the attention of the Commissioners to the fact that Nurses are the only body of workers affected by the Act who have not already been accorded such representation, and that as a Health Act nurses are more intimately associated with the working of it than any other class, and that they are essential to the efficient working of the Act.

2. They are of opinion that it is the duty of the Government to provide an adequate Nursing Service for insured persons, and if necessary to make such a Treasury grant as may be necessary to put the matter on a firm financial basis.

3. They earnestly desire that Section 21 should be amended as follows: that following the words "and to appoint nurses" shall be inserted "who shall have had at least three years' consecutive training in Hospitals or Infirmaries of not less than 100 beds, and which maintain a resident Medical Officer" for the purpose of visiting and nursing insured persons.

A number of ladies and gentlemen representative of various bodies concerned with nursing, met by invitation of Mr. John Burns, President of the Local Government Board, at the offices of the Board on Saturday last when Sir H. C. Monro occupied the chair, to discuss the position of district nursing in London and the possibility of bettering it.

The President said that in the important matter of district nursing it was necessary that there should be unification of aim, and co-ordination of effort in order to prevent not only waste of money, but also of time, devotion and energy. He was anxious that a permanent

Committee should be established which would serve as a bureau or centre for the different agencies to co-ordinate their work. He spoke in the highest terms of the value of the work of district nurses.

The following provisional committee, with power to add to its number, was appointed to prepare and promote a scheme to bring the bodies concerned in district nursing in London into closer co-operation: Mr. Alfred Ellis, of the Metropolitan Federation of Queen's Nursing Associations; Miss Hughes, of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses; Miss Puxley, General Secretary of the Ranyard Nurses; Miss Christina Gregory, of the Southwark, Newington, and Walworth District Nursing Association; Sir Arthur Downes, M.D., of the Local Government Board; Mr. Warburg, L.C.C.; Mr. J. A. Dawes, M.P., Chairman of the London Insurance Committee; Canon Curtis, Chairman of the Wandsworth Board of Guardians; Mr. F. Briant, J.P., L.C.C.; Chairman of the Lambeth Board of Guardians; and Mr. C. S. Loch, Honorary Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society.

Miss Barton, as President of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association, has forwarded to the President of the Local Government Board—in tabulated form—extracts from over one hundred communications which she has received from Superintendent Nurses in rural unseparated workhouses dealing with the position of the Superintendent Nurse under the proposed Poor Law Institutions Draft Order.

The correspondents practically all agree that the Superintendent Nurse should have direct personal access to the Committee; that she should be directly responsible to the Medical Officer for the nursing and care of her patients, and should not be subservient in the sick wards to the Workhouse Master or Matron. That she should be consulted by the Committee in the choice and recommendation of nurses for appointment, and should have full control of the nursing staff, arranging for their leave of absence and all other matters in connection with their discipline and welfare.

The members of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association are most anxious that in any Orders issued by the Local Government Board the conditions with regard to Superintendent Nurses may be such as will attract really good, capable, fully trained nurses to these most important and responsible posts.

The position at present of the Superintendent Nurse in the unseparated workhouse is ill-defined. There is a good deal of overlapping of duties and responsibilities, which in too

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