

NURSING ECHOES.

The question of whether nurses trained in a hospital should be promoted to the position of Sister without further experience, is one to which reference has often been made in this journal. Recently it has been acutely agitating the House Committee of the General Infirmary, Macclesfield—an institution which has 60 beds—where two vacancies occurred for Sisters, one in the children's ward and the other in the operating theatre. Some of the committee consider that before a nurse is promoted she should gain wider experience elsewhere, and others that it is only fair to promote their own nurses. Opinions were so evenly divided that the decision to adopt the latter course, subject to the approval of the Governors, was only made by the casting vote of the chairman.

We have every sympathy with those members of hospital committees who desire to recognize good work done by members of their own staffs, but even in the case of nurses trained in a large hospital we believe that a varied experience before settling down to the responsible and restricted life of a ward sister is desirable, and in that of a small hospital, it is imperatively necessary both in the interests of the nurse and of the institution. To defer promotion is to increase the efficiency of the individual and therefore of the hospital.

We always like to read of gratitude from patients to their nurses. Recently the Chairman of the Tolworth Hospital Board reported that they had lately had in the hospital the children of Mrs. Soames, of Woodbury, Surbiton, who had expressed a desire to show her appreciation of the way in which her little ones had been cared for in the institution, and she was anxious to do something explicitly for the pleasure of the nurses. She had therefore sent to Miss Alexander a cheque for £10. Miss Alexander had consulted the staff, and with their approval she wished to provide something in the nature of a summer-house for the lawn, so that when off duty the nurses could sit there. At present there was nothing of the kind, and not even any seats. He moved that the thanks of the Board be tendered to Mrs. Soames for her gift, and that the cheque be handed to Miss Alexander to expend in the way the staff desired.

Mr. Peel seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

At the quarterly meeting of the Scottish Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute

for Nurses the report for the past three months' work was submitted. It showed that the council were directly responsible for 6 Queen's nurses and 22 probationers receiving instruction in the Training Home. Nine nurses had completed training during the period and were engaged in district work at Edinburgh, Motherwell, Clydebank, Craignish, Greenock, Stirling, and Benbecula. One hundred and fifty-two visits of inspection had been made and reports thereon received by the executive committee; 1,846 cases had been nursed in Edinburgh from the Training Home, necessitating 33,267 visits, and 548 cases remained on the books at the end of the quarter. Donations received amounted to £275 19s. 6d., and subscriptions to £141. It was intimated that under the trust disposition and settlement of the late Miss Julia Meiklam of Gladswood the Institute would benefit to the extent of £4,300 at Martinmas, and that a further sum from part of the residue of the estate would at a later date be divided among the residuary legatees. It was also reported that a sum of £1,700 would shortly be paid to the Institute in respect of the residue of the late Dr. Proudfoot's estate.

This week the three great national organizations of trained nurses in the United States, the American Nurses' Association, the National League of Nursing Education, and the National Organization for Public Health, have held their annual meetings at the same time at Atlantic City, New Jersey, and the conjoint programme for discussion covers numerous questions of the greatest interest. A whole session was given up to State Registration, over which Miss Isabel McIsaac presided. The wide range the question covers may be gauged from the titles of the papers: "Some State regulation upon the appointment of the faculties of Nursing Schools, their number, preparation and status," by Miss Annie W. Goodrich, R.N. "Should there be a national committee on amendments and standards. If so how should such be organized?" "Is compulsory registration desirable, and how may it be obtained?" "Future administration of registration laws." "How should inspection of schools be made?" "The value of registration to the individual nurse." "Co-operation of graduate nurse organization with State registration." "Minimum registration standards." "Reciprocity."

Registration is evidently a very live question in the United States—and estimated at its true value by the Nurses' Organizations in spite of attempts to minimize its effects by those who make money through lack of standards.

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