

NURSING ECHOES.

We are not surprised to hear that in London, where the Employers' Liability Act, the Licensing Act of the London County Council, and the National Insurance Act are all in force, that the general opinion amongst the managers of Nurses' Co-operation Societies is that never again can they be started on a sure financial basis at less than 10 per cent. The Glasgow and West of Scotland Co-operation of Trained Nurses, in its annual report, notifies that, for the future, nurses joining will pay 10 per cent. for the first two years, and later $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The effect of all these Acts is to tax the work of nurses working on the Co-operation system.

We have received several letters from nurses thanking us for bringing to their notice the "Woman's Platform" page in the *Standard*, and informing us that they have substituted the paper for others which boycott or persistently oppose State Registration of Nurses. This is a sound policy. Personally we cannot understand the type of woman who enjoys being insulted daily or weekly, as the case may be. In consequence interesting articles on nursing are to be found in the "Platform." We read there that:—

Nursing work in the Highlands of Scotland is not eagerly sought after. It is not the pleasant life that it is sometimes considered by city cooped-up nurses. And the result of the Highlands and Islands inquiry into nursing is as was anticipated. "The total number of nurses is quite inadequate" fully summarises the lengthy report. For the work is not pleasant in winter-time. In the summer months the life may seem ideal—long cycle rides amid mountain scenery and the scent of the heather. But snow, ice, bitter winds, and sleet alter affairs, and roads impassable by torrents from the hillsides make the journeying from patient to patient one of hardship.

Nurses—particularly the fever nurses—must be prepared to attend upon cases in the houses of the crofters, and to live in these sometimes decidedly primitive cottages while in charge of patients. And as the cot of the crofter is oftentimes a rough stone "biggin" with thatched roof—the same roof covering both the inhabitants and the live stock—the accommodation is not of the most tempting kind.

In Argyllshire a bell tent is provided for the nurses. Needless to add, they much prefer, as a general rule, this canvas home from home to the crofter's cottage. Certainly there is a dearth of nurses in various islands off the west coast of Scotland. To get to the Hebrides the nurse must take to the boat in a sea that in the winter months is usually stormy, and sailing craft are unreliable as regards duration of voyage. Motor boats are

wanted, and before long the west of Scotland islands will doubtless have a motor launch service for doctors and nurses. But some islands are for weeks cut off from communication with the mainland owing to heavy seas, and unless a resident nurse is provided the dwellers will be without skilled assistance. For example, there is no nurse in South Uist, an island with a population of 5,000 persons.

The scarcity of nurses in country Poor Law Infirmaries is becoming a very serious evil, as the status and education of candidates is much on the downward grade. Of course, Boards of Guardians, such as that at Congleton, which offers £22 a year for a trained nurse, cannot expect to obtain anyone worth her salt.

Immensely good work is being done by the Manchester and Salford District Nursing Association, and we are pleased to know it is recognised. The committee has just received through Sir Frank Forbes Adam a cheque for £50, sent to him by Mr. Joseph Watson with the request that he would hand it to an institution in the city to be chosen by him, and which he is satisfied stands in need of it. The institution is now paying 260,000 nursing visits per annum free of charge to poor sick persons of all denominations.

Miss Florence Franklin, a nurse at the Royal Hospital, Sheffield, is to be congratulated on her narrow escape from a serious accident the other day. She was struck by a piece of spouting carried down by a quantity of falling snow, when passing a house, and might have been seriously injured.

A most successful and enjoyable entertainment was given last week at Woodbrook, Bray, in Mr. Stanley Cochrane's new concert hall, in aid of Lady Dudley's Nursing Scheme for the maintenance of district nurses in the poorest parts of Ireland. The instrumental music was provided by the Hamilton Harty Sextet, and his settings of Ulster traditional airs, sung to verses in which their true spirit was notably exemplified, gave great pleasure.

We hope Lady Dudley made a nice little pile by her successful entertainment. Established now for a considerable number of years, the influence of her scheme for great good has been felt wherever the districts are apportioned and nurses appointed, those districts being situated on the west coasts of Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, and Cork.

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