

NURSING ECHOES.

We are glad to learn that as the result of his appeal to the press the Vicar of Wateringbury, Kent, nurses have been procured for the Hoppers Hospital in connection with the Church of England Hop Pickers Missionary Association.

The Rev. Father Wilson, of St. Augustine's, Stepney, has for a great many years carried on a Hoppers' Hospital at Five Oak Green, near Paddock Wood, the centre of the hop-picking district. Up to about five years ago he looked after the sick hoppers in a cottage. The licence of the "Rose and Crown" had then expired, and he purchased the place and converted it into a hospital. He is assisted by a willing staff of trained nurses from London. In the summer Father Wilson utilises the place as a boarding establishment for slum children, who are given an outing in the country, so that the Hospital, as it is called, is always full.

In a letter from Miss A. B. Ashley she refers to the unfavourable criticism of nurses in the daily press, and claims there are reasons for it. 1. That matrons are selecting the wrong type of young woman for training—and in consequence the right type are discouraged from adopting nursing as their sphere of work—2. The disorganization of the work, to remedy which she wishes the State to give the protection to nurses enjoyed by other classes of workers. She would have the age for entrance to hospitals, and the hours for work, study, and recreation defined by Act of Parliament. She approves of the age limit in the training schools being decreased, so as to launch trained nurses as independent wage earners at a younger age. She suggests that our criticsers should not only condemn present arrangements, but take an active part in getting the Nurses Registration Bill passed into law, so that conditions can be improved and a good class of girl encouraged to train as nurses. "The mistress of a High School told me the other day—she adds—that she had had inquiries from Canada as to whether any of the girls would like to train as nurses there, which shows that the colonies are now awake, and are laying good educational foundations for the future."

On various occasions the Loughborough Board of Guardians has refused to give subscriptions to voluntary charitable associations,

including the Queen's Nursing Association at Loughborough. At the time efforts were made to obtain subscriptions it was pointed out that the Associations were doing the work of the Guardians.

The matter has been brought to a head now by the Loughborough Association, which is short of funds, refusing to continue to give treatment to cases receiving outdoor relief unless an order is made by the relieving officer. In this case a charge would be made of 6d. per visit.

Notice has been given of a resolution that the Board pay the Association annually £5 per nurse.

As we reported last week the Southmolton Board of Guardians have so much difficulty in obtaining certificated nurses, that they propose to appoint the matron, who is certificated as Superintendent Nurse, and advertise for an uncertificated person as nurse at £20 wages. A reader writes "As the remuneration offered to the matron is only £5, it would be interesting to know what sort of certificate she holds, if she is willing to accept responsibility as Superintendent Nurse at just a quarter of the salary offered for an *uncertificated* woman." As we said before a matron if she performs her own duties efficiently has not time to act as a practical Superintendent Nurse—but if double work is required of her—she should receive a double salary. In this connection unprofessional Boards of Guardians struggling with the intricacies of the Nursing question are to be pitied. Sooner or later the Nursing Profession must be entrusted with sufficient self government to solve its own problems. Just so long as Nursing remains a monopoly in the hands of employers—just so long will the present muddle continue. We must have State Organization sooner or later for the sake of sick people. It is very scandalous that we have been obstructed in our attempts to organize by a profit making minority for so long.

For some time past the Ruthin Guardians have been unable to retain the services of a head nurse, and several changes have been made. The present nurse resigned a short time ago owing to the refusal to grant certain privileges, and it was reported at a meeting of the board recently that not a single application had been made for the post of head nurse, although the salary offered was £40.

Miss Davies Cooke maintained that a better salary should be offered, as it was the worst

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