

NURSING ECHOES.

Trained nurses will learn with deep thankfulness that the inquiry into the problems presented by the prevalence of venereal disease will, it is understood, take the form of a Royal Commission, with the composition of which considerable progress has already been made. The names of the Commissioners and the terms of reference will probably be published before the end of October.

Lord Morley echoed the opinion of our National Council of Trained Nurses, as expressed by resolution at their Congress in 1909, when in August, at the meeting of the International Congress of Medicine, he expressed the opinion that it would be sheer moral cowardice to shrink from a large and serious inquiry into the extent, the causes, and the palliatives of this hideous scourge, just as we investigate the ravages of tubercle or cancer.

There is evidence of a keenly critical attitude upon the part of the Women's Political Societies, prompted by past experience of the degrading Contagious Diseases Act. We are the more pleased, therefore, to note that in a leader in the *Times* on Monday on this subject the following significant sentence occurs:—"With the proviso that no revival of the Contagious Diseases Act is in contemplation, it is to be hoped that the scope of the inquiry and the composition of the Commission will be reasonably wide and comprehensive."

We hope so, too.

We are glad to note that the Newcastle Cathedral Nursing Society which does so much excellent work amongst the very poor, is in a perfectly sound financial state, thanks to the support given to it in the past 30 years, and to the legacies which bring in at least £180 a year. Still regular annual subscribers are needed as the activities of the Society are ever growing. The annual report refers in appreciative terms to the work of the National Health Week, the crusade against tuberculosis, and the Mothers and Babies Welcome. The nurses at the home in Ellison Place have in the past year attended 2,206 cases, and have paid 23,019 visits. Poverty and suffering are the only claims on the nurses' services. The branches at Benwell and Alnmouth have been working most satisfactorily, and the society's convalescent home at Hexham continues to carry on its very helpful work.

An appeal is being made by the Mayor of Leicester for funds to enable the Leicester District Nurses' Home to purchase and extend

its headquarters in the New Walk. This is the only institution in Leicester which provides skilled nurses to attend the sick poor in their own homes, and, although there is full scope for a larger staff, its operations are cramped through lack of accommodation for the nurses. At present the building is the home of fourteen nurses, only two of whom live out, in addition to the matron and assistant matron. While the services of the nurses are available throughout the whole borough, the nurses also undertake the phthisical cases from the Borough Insurance Committee, and from January 1st to the middle of July this year the register shows that the new cases attended numbered 1,019, an increase of 100 on the same period of last year, disregarding the year-to-year chronic cases. The sum required for the purchase and extension is between £3,000 and £4,000, and the excuse (if any be needed) for the appeal is that with the addition of four or five bedrooms for the use of extra nurses, the above ratio of increasing medical service can be easily maintained each year.

The Bishop of Derby recently dedicated, and Mrs. Mundy opened, the new wing for nurses which has been added to the Victoria Memorial Home of Rest at Derby, at a cost of £800.

We are glad to observe that the House Committee of the Alcester Board of Guardians are going to take action with the hope of inculcating some degree of discipline amongst the assistant nursing staff. It seems that recently on a temporary Superintendent Nurse leaving the infirmary she was "drummed" out by these juniors beating a sauce pan and frying pan with wooden spoons. One member of the committee suggested they were only giving her a hearty farewell—another remarked "it was only a woman's row,"—but by 14 votes to 6, the committee decided to attempt to protect and maintain the authority of the superintendent officers, and that the matter should be thoroughly investigated. We hope the inquiry may result in a higher tone permeating the institution. It is sad to think of the loss of prestige incurred by such unmannerly pranks.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Irish Nurses' Association, held in Dublin on Saturday, 4th inst., a very interesting series of lectures was arranged for. It is hoped that members will show their appreciation of the kindness of the lecturers by attending in large numbers.

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