

### NURSING ECHOES.

On Thursday in last week Mr. C. F. G. Masterman, M.P., Chairman of the National Health Insurance Commission, accompanied by Sir Robert Morant, K.C.B., and other members of the Insurance Commission, received a deputation from the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, in reference to the position of nurses under the Insurance Act. The deputation consisted of Viscount Goschen, Sir A. Williamson, Bt., M.P., Mr. G. Franklin, Mr. W. G. Rathbone, Mrs. Minet, Miss E. Wagg, Miss Amy Hughes, Mr. C. J. Bond (Leicester), Lady St. Davids (South Wales), Miss Davies (North Wales), and Miss Fry (County Nursing Associations).

Lord Goschen, Chairman of the Institute, pointed out how the work of nurses under the National Insurance Act was hampered by the uncertainty of the present position, and Sir Archibald Williamson stated that under section 21 of the National Insurance Act facilities were provided for nursing associations to enter into agreement with approved societies to provide nursing for these societies' members, but there was no single body in any given area with whom they could negotiate. Other speakers were Mr. Franklin, Mr. Bond, Miss Amy Hughes, Lady St. Davids, and Miss Fry.

In the course of his reply Mr. Masterman said the deputation should seriously consider whether the effect of an Exchequer grant to nursing associations would not be to undermine the voluntary principle upon which they told him the Institute set such store. He agreed that it was desirable that associations should deal directly with the Insurance Committees, and he would see if any steps could be taken in regard to this.

So important an event in our educational history is the formation of the Teachers' Register that *The Times* devoted a special section of its Educational Supplement last week to a full exposition of the subject; and heartily congratulated the Teachers' Registration Council upon the impressive character of the event—"the attempt to unite the teachers of this country into an organized profession." Every word appearing in *The Times* is apposite to the Trained Nurses' Register, and it cannot, therefore, with any consistency continue to mercilessly boycott the demand of Trained Nurses for the same privileges granted to the Teachers, and of which it so strongly approves.

Mrs. Carreg-McCowan, the President of the Nurses' Choral and Social League, gave a delightful "At Home" to the members at 50, Queen's Gate, S.W., on the 4th inst. Beautiful singing and most amusing recitations, and a Café Chantant continued throughout the afternoon, and after a sumptuous tea, Mrs. McCowan, in a pleasant little speech, said the League was very flourishing, and that they hoped to have new developments, including a Nurses' Club. Their concert was to be held in the Spring, and there was to be a Nurses' Social.

Miss James then gave a very earnest little address. She spoke of cultivating the Spirit of Joy, as it meant so much in life, especially in that of nurses. She spoke of the joy music was in life, and advised nurses to cultivate any musical gift they possessed.

Miss Barton, the Vice-President of the League, heartily thanked Mrs. McCowan, in the name of the nurses, for her untiring efforts to bring the spirit of joy into the lives of the members of the League.

The objects of the Nurses' Choral and Social League are to draw together all Trained Nurses and their friends, to form classes of different kinds for mutual improvement and social intercourse.

The Choral Classes are worked under the conductorship of Dr. W. H. Hickox, F.R.C.O. (Professor at the Guildhall School of Music), who also undertakes starting of classes, sending teachers to any part of London where a class of 30 nurses can be formed, and a suitable room, either in a hall, hospital, infirmary, or institute, can be procured.

By invitation of the Nurses' Co-operation the Annual Show of the Nurses' Needlework Guild was held at 35, Langham Street, W., on December 4th. The number of garments on show was 1,260, a record of which the Hon. Secretary, Miss Laura Baker, may be proud, as it is the greatest number received in any one year. Miss C. Hoadley, the Lady Superintendent, Miss Gethen, the Secretary, and Miss Laura Baker, the Sister-in-Charge, were most hospitable and cordial to the 300 guests who visited the Show in the course of the afternoon, and tea was served in the pretty restaurant attached to the Home.

When the visitors had left, the many useful garments were speedily despatched to the following hospitals and institutions: The London, University College, Guy's, St. Mary's, Brompton, the Royal Free, West London, Metropolitan, Miller, West Ham, Prince of Wales',

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