

## NURSING ECHOES.

### GENERAL NEWS.

Dr. E. W. Goodall, Medical Superintendent, took the chair at a meeting held at the Eastern Hospital, Homerton, on the 26th ult., when Mrs. Bedford Fenwick gave an address on the State Registration of Nurses. Dr. Goodall was supported on the platform by the Matron, Miss Bradley, and by Dr. W. Brander, Medical Superintendent, and Miss Griffith, Matron of the Hackney Infirmary. The nursing staffs of both institutions were well represented. Mrs. Fenwick gave a brief survey of the history of the movement during the past 26 years, touched on its educational and economic importance to nurses and the public, and expressed the opinion that as all the eight important societies of medical men and nurses which supported the principle of registration, in England, Scotland, and Ireland, were represented on the Central Committee which had drafted the Bill, and as in the past 20 years 48 Acts for the purpose had come into force in South Africa, New Zealand, United States of America, Germany, Belgium, Queensland, and Canada, it could not be long before the Nurses' Registration Bill would become law in this country. Mrs. Fenwick explained the chief clauses of the Bill, and replied to a number of very intelligent questions asked by the nurses present, who were apparently quite alive to the benefits which legislation would confer upon their profession generally. After a vote of thanks, proposed from the chair, and warmly accorded, tea and coffee were served in the nurses' delightful dining-room.

It is hoped that many more meetings to discuss State Registration may be arranged. Sir Victor Horsley, Dr. Goodall, Dr. Biernacki, and Miss Tawney (R.B.N.A.) have kindly consented to speak by arrangement on this important subject. Every member of the nursing profession should study the Bill now before Parliament; it costs 2d.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board has established the grade of senior probationer nurse at the children's hospitals in order to retain the services of probationer nurses who have obtained certificates at the end of three years' training, but who cannot be appointed as staff nurses, and are too young to enter for training in a general hospital. The salary is the same as that attached to the office of assistant nurse, class I, at the children's hospitals, namely, £24 per annum, rising by £1 to £28 per annum, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform.

Baroness Mannerheim, head of the Surgical Hospital, Helsingfors, Finland, and leader of nursing organization in Finland, has been in town for a flying visit, made, we regret to say, in connection with the illness of a relative, to whom go our best wishes. Miss Dock saw Baroness Mannerheim for a few moments, and learned that she, with Miss Nylander, hopes to go to San Francisco in 1915.

Who can wonder at the depreciation in the educational standard of nurses when Matrons recruit their nursing staffs by advertising for domestic helps, aged from 16 to 18, to train in housework and cooking, and offer as a bait that opportunity will be given them later, if suitable, to enter the wards as probationers, and to gain a certificate. Such an advertisement recently appeared in a lay nursing journal from the Matron of a cottage hospital. Of course, the certificate of a cottage hospital, gained after some five years' domestic and nursing service, would carry no weight, and it is most unjust to offer such terms.

### LEAGUE NEWS.

The members of the Nurses' League (Cleveland Street Branch) spent a very happy afternoon on Saturday, the 28th ult., at the Infirmary, when Miss Leigh (the Matron) welcomed about forty visitors.

Once again their kind friend, Miss Evelyn Vickers, came with her amateur orchestra to entertain, and gave a varied programme. Everyone likes variation, especially nurses, and this is one of the charms of the orchestra; every member seemed to play a different instrument, and Miss Pocock's recitations, and the Misses Roberson's and Mr. Tyler's solos were thoroughly appreciated.

The duologue, "The Backward Pupil," in character, by the Misses Roberson, caused much amusement, and finally brought the concert to a close, when Miss Leigh took some of the members to see the wards, and they left promising to pay another visit before long, and congratulating the Matron on the homely spirit of the League, thus unconsciously maintaining their reputation, of which they are proud, and which she is ever the first to encourage.

Under the auspices of the Ulster Branch Irish Nurses' Association, Miss Irwin will give a lecture on "Hints on House-keeping, and Household Management," in the Royal Victoria Hospital, on Thursday, March 26th, at 7.30 p.m.

### PRIVATE NURSING.

The report of the Nurses' Co-operation, 8, New Cavendish Street, London, W., records

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