

NURSING ECHOES.

GENERAL NEWS.

The nursing world will sooner or later have a good laugh over the new curtain-raiser by Miss Jennings at the Vaudeville. *The Rest Cure* presents to us the interior working of a Nursing Home where a "man of letters," suffering from "nerves," attempts a cure! Of course, the thing is a skit, a travesty of truth, but some reason lurks in its lesson, and as a *raison d'être* for registration nothing could be more convincing.

Mrs. Carreg-McCowan, President of the Nurses' Choral and Social League, gave a delightful At Home at 50, Queen's Gate, S.W., on Thursday, March 12th. The music—both vocal and instrumental—was most enjoyable. Mr. Jeffreys-Powell gave charming violin solos; Miss Norah Drake amused the audience with her rendering of "Nursie"; Mrs. Capper, Miss Maud Crolse, and Miss Mary Willoughby sang charmingly; and a duet by Mr. Otto von Bourg and Mr. James Lee was greatly appreciated. A recitation by Miss Stella Hackman, on "The Limitations of Youth," of which the refrain was "I would if I durst, but I durstn't," occasioned great merriment. Great regret was expressed at the absence of Miss Barton, the Vice-President, owing to indisposition.

At nine o'clock Mrs. Carreg-McCowan gave a few details of the work and play of the winter Session. Eighty singing classes had, she said, been held in infirmaries, and 14 central classes. At the Annual Nurses' Concert, the choir looked so nice and pretty, and the freshness of the voices was much commented on. The great success of the season was the fancy dress ball, and next January it was hoped to have a much bigger one. The President then introduced Colonel Bruce Porter, who said he spoke as a friend and comrade of nurses. His acquaintance with them dated back for nearly 30 years, when, as a patient, he owed his life to the devotion of two nurses who looked after him with pneumonia. Most of those present were infirmiry nurses, and a probationer entering an infirmiry must understand that she was entering the finest profession in the world, though it was anything but a lucrative one. Moreover, however highly they were paid, it was impossible to pay good nurses their worth. They gave each patient they nursed a bit of their lives, and, like doctors, belonged to the dangerous classes, not because they were a danger to others, but because of the risks they ran. The speaker emphasised the necessity for im-

pressing on the Government and the Local Government Board the necessity for increasing the nursing staffs in infirmaries, and gave much good and sympathetic advice to his hearers, both trained and in training.

From all parts of the country the demand for probationers and trained nurses is urgent. The smaller infirmaries in many instances are making shift with uneducated attendants, and private nursing institutions are unable to procure well-trained nurses for the sick. Thus the present lack of organization in the nursing profession is causing suffering and distress to both rich and poor.

The following questions, asked in the House of Commons on March 11th by Dr. Chapple, and the answers given by the President of the Board of Trade, are published in the Parliamentary Debates of that date.

LABOUR EXCHANGES (NURSES).

Dr. Chapple asked the President of the Board of Trade whether nurses may, and whether they do, make use of the Labour Exchanges in order to find employment in their profession?

The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Burns): The number of trained sick nurses who obtained employment through the Labour Exchanges during the four weeks ended February 13th, 1914, was twenty-four.

Dr. Chapple: May I ask if inquiries are made as to whether nurses who apply for employment are trained or not, and whether, if they were registered, the Labour Exchanges would not have some guide.

Mr. Burns: It is obviously not the duty of the Labour Exchanges to do some of the duties which the hon. Member apparently thinks should be performed by them. The Labour Exchanges do not find employment for ordinary domestic children's nurses, who learn their duties as nursemaids.

Dr. Chapple: Can the right hon. gentleman say whether they are trained or not?

Mr. Burns: If a nurse in the opinion of the Nurses' Association is qualified they grant a certificate, and the Labour Exchange employs her under those conditions. But the question which the hon. gentleman is putting to me is one which it seems to me ought to be directed to another quarter.

We wonder what the Nurses' Association is in which Mr. Burns has such unlimited confidence.

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