

NURSING ECHOES.

A letter from Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary of the International Council, shows how the devastating war in Europe is affecting nurses and nursing on the other side of the Atlantic. Times are hard, capital scared, revenues short, and Congress has had to declare a war tax, just as if America were at war. Many American nurses now say that the trip to the International Congress of Nurses at San Francisco, to which they had been looking forward next May, will be too expensive for them. The whole world, Miss Dock says, is appealing to America for help, and the appeals are most piteous. Starving Belgians, destitute children and women of France, Armenia, all need help, and the Red Cross is filling the air with heart-rending appeals. One lady even wishes to mobilize 1,000 women to march to the scene of war and stand between the firing lines, like the Sabines of old, and invites America to find the money—a demonstration which we fear would have little effect on the enemy, and would result in a holocaust of innocent victims.

An enthusiastic amateur—one of the "Ladies of Goodwill," we presume, of whose perfections and superiority to the trained nurse we hear so much nowadays—on hearing that some wounded were expected in the hospital where she was stationed, ran round with the warming pan so that the beds, newly made up, should be warm and comfortable. Nothing too good for the sick soldier, she thought: now trained nurses wouldn't think of little niceties of that sort. Unfortunately, in her enthusiasm she filled the warming pan with boiling water, and the condition of the beds when she had finished with them is better imagined than described.

The most successful Sale of Work in the annals of the Nurses' Missionary League was held on Saturday last at 52, Lower Sloane Street, S.W. It is a known fact that nurses are generous, and that they can rise to an emergency, and this was again proved. An extract from one letter shows the spirit in which the gifts were sent:—"I feel more help and encouragement are needed this year by the N.M.L. in its untiring efforts to help its members, so I have done a little extra to show its efforts are appreciated." Work was sent by members in many hospitals, and by district and private nurses; also home-made cakes, sweets, and jam, which had a ready sale.

Purchasers, too, were very kind. One friend who does not usually come made a special effort to do so this year, "in order that the good work should not suffer." £34 16s. 8d. has been made, and it is hoped to add considerably to that amount, as some very nice things are still left, and boxes of work are already being sent for sale in hospitals. Any nurse who thinks she could find customers for inexpensive useful or fancy articles should apply at once to Miss Richardson, 52, Lower Sloane Street, London, S.W.

At a recent meeting of the Leicester Trades Council a high tribute was paid to the doctors and nurses of the staff of the Royal Infirmary and the Military Hospital. Alderman Chaplin, a member of the Board of Governors of the Infirmary, said that there was nobody in the world working harder just now than doctors, and he could tell them that doctors at the Base Hospital had gone into wards and had not left for twenty-four hours. Two doctors he knew had left their own practices in order to lend assistance. Nurses were beginning to break down through the great strain.

Mr. Law moved "That the best thanks of the Council be given to doctors, nurses, and others for their unremitting care to the wounded." The resolution was carried unanimously.

The memorial raised to commemorate the late Duchess of Northumberland, which will take the form of the endowment of the Northumberland Nursing Association, is particularly appropriate, as Her Grace took a great interest in the Association which she founded and developed. The sum of £3,000 has been vested in trustees, and the interest will be applied to the purpose of training nurses through the Association.

The request of the nurses at Oldmill Poor-House, Aberdeen, for additional time off duty, has been refused by the Aberdeen City Parish Council on the recommendation of the Poor House Committee, in spite of the powerful advocacy of some of the members. Miss Thirl said that the nurses worked 62 hours weekly, against the 52 hours of the average British workman. The nurses were asking only four additional hours of off-duty time in the week—not very much. These girls were not under any trade union, and were not protected by legislation, and because of that, apparently some of the Committee wished to keep the nurses' noses on the grindstone. Public opinion was in favour of the nurses, and

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