

### NURSING ECHOES.

The proposal, made in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING last week, to form a Trained Nurses' Economic League, to consider, and if possible secure, just economic conditions for the Nursing Profession, has evidently aroused a very satisfactory amount of interest, as we have received some very sympathetic letters in connection with the suggestion. Such a desirable result is not to be easily attained, but we hope the rank and file will have the sympathy and active support of Matrons and Superintendents, and also of the medical profession, as just economic conditions make for good work and contentment—a desirable consummation in the organization of every profession. Before calling a meeting to found the League, we hope to enlist influential support.

We have pleasure in announcing that Miss Henrietta Hawkins has consented to act as Hon. Secretary *pro tem*.

Forms of application for nurses holding a certificate of training from a general hospital containing fifty beds and upwards, willing to serve in military hospitals at a salary of £2 2s. a week, will be found on page vi.

A Territorial nurse writes, after criticising the suggestion to nurse Territorial hospitals with V.A.D. probationers:—"Anyway, when we get through with all the worry, we ought to get the Registration Bill through; it would be better than all medals and such things." Indeed it would.

The Annual Report for 1914 of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland (431, Oxford Street, London, W.), just issued, contains an interesting summary of the year's work. An Appendix gives in brief the names of members who are engaged in work connected with the war, and affords striking evidence of the value of the public service rendered by members of the Council, and the varied and responsible duties in which they are engaged.

The Annual Presentation of Prizes to the probationer nurses at the Highgate Hill Infirmary took place last week, when, in the absence of the Chairman of the Infirmary, Mrs. F. Marshall, Mr. W. H. Andrews presided.

The Clerk to the Board, Mr. E. Davey, explained that the prize-giving originated in a bequest to the institution by a patient, who left £75 for its benefit. This, invested in Consols, sufficed for three prizes, under what was named

the "Smalley Bequest," and they were given to probationers in their first year.

The second three prizes were known as the "Leonard Marshall Prizes," and were given by the Chairman, who had invested £100 in Consols for this purpose, the prizes being given to probationers in their third year.

Mr. Davey also read an interesting letter from a correspondent who wrote from personal knowledge of the value of good nursing in the war. It was impossible to over-estimate this. When one thought of the difference a good nurse made to the comfort and welfare of her patient, one realized how very important it was that during her training a nurse should pay every attention to even the smallest detail, for small and apparently unimportant points, if neglected, might mean much additional and unnecessary suffering. In the severe cases in a hospital in Belgium near the fighting line the men suffered terribly, sometimes even when turned in bed, but the amount of their suffering when nursed depended very largely upon the nurse. The English nurses at the front were a constant wonder to the Belgians.

Sir Frederick Eve, who presented the prizes, and offered his congratulations to those who were entering the profession at this time of national emergency, reminded the nurses that in the war area they might find themselves where the medical equipment was inefficient, and they should endeavour always to preserve their ideals of cleanliness and asepsis, which should be looked upon as a religious rite. There were two elements which they always had at hand—Fire and Water—and these, with an ordinary saucepan, would do wonders. Nothing was better for irrigating wounds than boiled water and salt. To sterilize an article it was not necessary to boil it. You could sterilize a saucepan by putting spirits of wine in it and setting it alight—the flame would kill all germs. With few materials they could make all necessary operation dressings aseptic, and for the hands nothing was better than soap and water. Tincture of iodine was practically useless. Its virtue was due not to the iodine, but to the spirit contained in it. The ordinary healthy skin contained very few germs, and soap and water was sufficient. The most reliable lotion was carbolic acid and perchloride of mercury. Peroxide of hydrogen was invaluable for wounds, because the germs mostly came from the soil, and these would not flourish in the air with oxygen, and wounds should be freely opened to the air and treated with peroxide of hydrogen. The tetanus bacillus needed the same treatment. They need have no fear of

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