

NURSING ECHOES.

One of the effects of the present demand for nurses is the influence on the salaries offered to those holding permanent positions in institutions. We have before us quite a sheaf of newspaper cuttings in which an increase of nurses' salaries is discussed and sanctioned, not on the ground that their work deserves better pay, but because, by the rules of supply and demand, the committees employing them would lose their services unless salaries were increased, for they would take their wares to a better market.

Thus the West Bromwich Board of Guardians sanctioned a revision in the scale of salaries paid to nurses, on the ground advanced by the Chairman, Mr. J. W. B. Wright, who moved the adoption of the report of the House Committee containing this recommendation, and who said that "having regard to the arrangements made by other authorities, it was advisable to adopt it, to enable them to secure the necessary nurses."

At a meeting of the Committee of the Trowbridge Cottage Hospital the Matron, who stated that she would have to retain a supply nurse until a probationer was obtained, was asked whether she considered the salary of £10 offered to the probationer suitable. She suggested that if the probationer had more, her own salary and that of the staff nurse should be raised.

The Chairman thought they "would have to sanction a higher rate for a probationer, as things had gone up so, and the Red Cross Hospitals took so many girls." As to the payment to the staff nurse, he thought they ought to allow her a little increase. He was surprised to hear a fully trained nurse was only getting £20 a year.

It was agreed to give the staff nurse £25, and the probationer £12 10s.

At a meeting of the Sheffield Guardians the Rev. L. E. Day, in moving the adoption of the Hospital Committee's minutes, said they proposed to grant extra remuneration to various members of the hospital staff, in consideration of the extra work involved in the reception of wounded soldiers. They also proposed a war bonus of £10 per annum to each of thirteen sisters and two staff nurses, who are now doing duty as sisters. This was really necessary if they were to keep their sisters; otherwise there

was a danger of their being attracted by the good salaries which the Government was offering for nurses. At present the salaries were £10 to £16 less than those of nurses in military hospitals. They were assured that, if something of this kind was not done, they would have no certificated nurses in their hospital.

Whatever may be the cause, we welcome the fact that there is an upward tendency in regard to the meagre salaries paid to Sisters and nurses by many hospital authorities.

Mr. Charles Maisey, for thirty-eight years Parish Clerk at St. George's, Hanover Square, W., has had unique experience of things matrimonial, for numberless marriages, fashionable and otherwise, take place in that famous church. Here is one of his reminiscences, told by the correspondent of a contemporary:—A gentleman of high degree was going to marry his nurse, and he had wicked uncles, just as in a fairy story, who meant to prevent him. They surrounded the church, and when the bridegroom got out of his hansom, they bundled him into a four-wheeler and drove him off. The bride went weeping away, and from that day to this Mr. Maisey has heard no more of either party.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland, recently held in Dublin, the Chairman, Major E. R. C. Wellesley, J.P., who presided, said that the Board had good reason to know that the high standard of efficiency existing at the hospital, both medical, nursing, and administrative, is well appreciated by those who have been brought into contact with it. It was a cause for regret that some of the cases sent to the hospital are more advanced than they contemplated admitting in the earlier stages of their history. In regard to these matters the Board desired to express their thanks to Dr. Crofton, Visiting Physician; Dr. Hanan, and Dr. Crosbie, the late, and Dr. Kennedy and Dr. Gordon, the present Resident Medical Officers, and to Miss Taylor, Lady Superintendent, and the nursing staff generally. To their efforts and care under the Divine Blessing was due that high state of efficiency to which he had referred. He had no hesitation in inviting friends, whether as individuals or as representatives of public bodies, to visit the hospital, believing that they would find an institution second to none in equipment, organisation, and sympathetic attention to the welfare and comfort of the patients.

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