

NURSING ECHOES.

We may remind our readers that several important nursing questions are to be brought forward and discussed at the Annual Meetings of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, at which members of the Congress other than delegates may be present, although not eligible to vote.

A demand for State Registration of Nurses will be brought forward by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and seconded by Mrs. George Cadbury.

Miss Gibson, on behalf of the Workhouse Nursing Association, will bring forward the proposal that a Nursing Service, under the control of the Local Government Board, should be established, and that an Advisory Committee of experts be appointed to formulate the scheme.

Miss E. S. Haldane will propose a resolution urging local authorities to place suitable women on the Boards of Management of all hospitals and kindred institutions. Miss Haldane served for some time on the House Committee of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, which has been a very good example to our more reactionary general hospitals in London.

Programmes, giving full particulars, and tickets of admission—season 3s. 6d., and single meetings 1s.—may be obtained from the Secretary, N.U.W.W., Parliament Mansions, Westminster.

The Scottish Society of Trained Nurses has published in pamphlet form the "Nightingale" Prize Essay on "Modern Nursing: Its Development, Advantages, and Responsibilities," by Sister J. C. Cowie, and the profits from its sale will be given to Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund and the Scottish Women's Hospitals in France and Serbia. The price is threepence. Copies may be obtained from Miss E. A. Stevenson, the Hon. Secretary of the Society, at Bay View, Johnshaven, Kincardineshire.

In her introductory remarks, Sister Cowie says the public conscience was roused to the enormity of entrusting our sick, in their too acute sensitiveness, to women of such a class as "Sairey Gamp"—and asks if Miss Nightingale was not directly inspired by Sairey's deficiencies? She says that to the nun-nurse can be traced the popular idea that nursing is for disappointed women, if heaven is for beaten men. And, indeed, in hospital "the solitary are set in families," and the absorbing nature

of the work leaves little time for the nurse to think of weeping for herself, even if she has reason to do so.

The Essay reminds us of the odds against which Florence Nightingale fought in her epoch-making work, and goes on to touch on the various departments of nursing as organized to-day.

"To my thinking," Sister Cowie writes, "a danger in hospital life lies in allowing oneself to become a slave to routine. The evil effect of this may not be immediately visible; but some day it will attack the unsuspecting victim like a thief in the night. It may be the giving of a wrong medicine, or the failure to observe a new symptom in a hitherto uneventful case, or the omission of the one encouraging word that might have inspired with fresh hope some despairing and desolate soul. The remedy is not to think of the patients as inmates of an institution, or interesting cases or the reverse, but as living, love-craving beings. Let us follow humbly in the footsteps of Sir Walter Scott, who never met anyone who could not teach him something he never knew before, and try to enter into the feelings and life-story of each occupant of what, to him or her, may seem painfully similar beds." Sister Cowie is evidently a woman of wide sympathies, and we recommend probationers and nurses to possess themselves of her Essay.

Speaking at a Conference held recently at Mold with the object of forming a permanent Nursing Committee for the County of Flint, Mr. J. Herbert Lewis, in seconding the proposition, said that in whatever else they economised they must remember that the maintenance of the public health, and, above all, the preservation of child life, was now more essential to the nation than ever before. It required their ceaseless efforts if the nation of the future was to become what they desired to see. A cause of this kind ought to commend itself to the hearts and labours of all, to whatever creed or party they might belong.

Mr. Frederick Hicks, of Berkeley Lodge, Weybridge, Surrey, who died in June, has left among other bequests an annuity of £25, the use of a house in Chapel Place, Ramsgate, with the cottage adjoining, and £2,000 in trust for his nurse, Elizabeth Needham.

We are pleased to note that Lady Crewe and Miss Margaret Bondfield are making an appeal on behalf of the Home Helps Society—an out-

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