

## NURSING ECHOES.

The registration of nursing homes has for long been desired by trained nurses who realize the necessity for professional control, and for the employment of trained nurses of a recognized standard of efficiency. It is a question allied to, but distinct from, the registration of nurses. But the proposition for the registration of Lying-in and Nursing Homes, within the area of the jurisdiction of the London County Council, is assuming a very different aspect to that contemplated and desired by the nursing profession, and affords an illustration that if members of a profession do not take the initiative for securing legislation approved and defined by themselves, it may be promoted by others on lines prejudicial to their interests. Thus, under the London County Council (General Powers) Bill now before Parliament, legislation on professional lines is not contemplated, but is rather directed to the control of houses of bad character, and the onus of proof that they do not come into this category will tend to fall upon the proprietors of private nursing homes, carrying on the most highly skilled work under the direction of distinguished physicians and surgeons.

The provisions of the Bill, that officers of the London County Council shall have the right of entry and inspection, and "may make by-laws for the prevention of immorality in connection with the carrying on of establishments for nursing or special treatment, and as to the keeping and inspection of records in connection with such establishments," will, if carried into effect, unquestionably be prejudicial to the usefulness of good-class homes, and to the security which the public feel that on entering homes in professional hands their private affairs will be respected and treated as confidential.

If the powers asked for by the London County Council in this respect are transferred to the Borough Councils, the position will be far worse. Yet it is the strong opposition of the Borough Councils which is delaying the passing of the Bill. This was brought out plainly in the House of Lords on July 15th, when the Archbishop of Canterbury asked the Government whether they would afford early facilities for the passage of the Bill into law, and Earl Curzon stated that "the difficulty was that it was a private Bill, and that the proposals were opposed by a number of municipal authorities, who thought that instead of giving power of inspection to a central authority, their own powers with regard to the right of entry into brothels should be extended. Their case would

have to be heard before the Bill was passed." Could the professional homes be more greatly humiliated?

The Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses met recently at the offices in Victoria Street, Westminster. It was reported that Queen Alexandra had appointed the Hon. Charles Rothschild and Mr. Laurence Currie as trustees of the Institute, in place of the late Lord Rothschild and the late Sir Fleetwood Edwards. Lady Wimborne had consented to act as President of the Irish Advisory Committee. Affiliation has been granted to four Associations—Ashfordby, Leicestershire; Littleborough, Lancashire; Preston Patrick, Endmoor, and Crosscake, Westmorland; and Orpington, Kent. The long-service badge, denoting twenty-one years' service, was awarded to Nurse C. B. Fairley, of the Scottish Branch.

Much regret will be felt at the resignation of Mrs. Jeffers of the position of Secretary of the Irish Nurses' Association. This resignation will not take effect till the end of the summer. Everyone is so busy with war work, or so short-handed because of it, that it is difficult to find time for professional organization work. This pressure is as much felt in Dublin as elsewhere.

Miss Annie R. Creighton, a trained nurse and devoted worker in India, who was with us at Cologne, has, we regret to learn, been ill, but is now in Kashmir, where her health is improving. She writes that she has visited some of the hospitals, and finds they are very badly off for nurses. The mission hospital at Srinagar is general, so cannot take in young Indian women to train, and from the mission field hospitals generally comes an urgent call for more skilled nurses—and this at a time when thousands of women are professing patriotic devotion to the sick. Would that a few of them were inspired with the selfless nursing spirit which work amongst natives in our Eastern Empire demands—we should have greater faith in their protestations. "Wherever I go," writes Miss Creighton, "I speak of your JOURNAL. Some take it, all like it; as for myself, I feel something would be wanting in my life if I did not get it, so I thank you heartily for it."

The sad death of Mrs. Chatelier, Matron of the District Nurses' Home, Burnley, recently occurred from gas asphyxiation. Mrs. Chatelier had been suffering from severe pains in the head, and sleeplessness. A verdict of "Suicide while of unsound mind" was returned.

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