

NURSING ECHOES.

The Annual General Meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association is announced for May 17th, when presentations of medals for long and meritorious nursing service, always a very interesting feature of these meetings, will be made. In these restless days, the constant resignations among the junior members of this branch of the profession, and the consequent disorganisation of routine, give much additional work and anxiety to the responsible heads. It is therefore pleasant to note that long service medals are still in request among members of asylum staffs. We can conceive of no work which, if faithfully, conscientiously, and sympathetically performed, is more worthy of recognition, and we hope that the list of the recipients will be a long one.

The Public Health Department of the L.C.C. reported at its meeting on Tuesday that they have had under consideration the question of the employment, as a temporary expedient during the war, of married women in positions under their direction. Standing Order No. 343 provides that all women appointed after 11th December, 1906, except teachers and others specially exempted by the Council from the operation of the Standing Order, shall be required to resign their appointments on marriage, and in view of the terms of this Standing Order married women, other than widows, are not employed under their direction except in a few cases in which the Council has suspended the Standing Order in order to retain the services of assistant medical officers and school nurses after marriage until the expiration of their engagements, or the conclusion of the war, or the war service of their respective husbands, whichever be the earliest date in each case. While there appears to be no need at present for authority to employ married women for typewriting or clerical work, they think that it will be a convenience, especially in regard to the medical and nursing staff, if they be authorised, as a temporary expedient during the war, to employ at their discretion married women, each case being considered on its merits. They recommend:—(a) That the operation of Standing Order No. 343 be suspended, in order that the following recommendation (b) may be dealt with. (b) That, as a temporary expedient during the war, the Establishment Committee be authorised to employ at their discretion, after consideration of each case on its merits, married women in

positions under their direction. The matter is under discussion as we go to press.

The Leeds Education Committee decided at a recent meeting to fix the minimum salary of school nurses at £75, and the maximum at £100, with £5 per annum for uniform. The salaries will be open to revision biennially, with increments of £5, subject to satisfactory service. The department has a very efficient staff, all of them being Queen's Nurses.

Only nurses amongst the poor know how much recovery from illness may be retarded by lack of insufficient and nourishing food, and, in consequence, how valuable is an agency which systematically supplies the needed nourishment. The Bedford District Nursing Association, which is affiliated with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, is exceptionally fortunate in this respect, as, through Mrs. Alfred Paine, the Hon. Superintendent of the local Nursing Branch of the St. John Ambulance Association, their patients are well provided for. Last year this agency supplied 382 pints of Bovril jelly and soup; 281 dinners from joints, poultry, game and fish; 208 puddings and jellies; Benger's food; small bottles of Bovril; and 240 eggs. The Committee also tender their thanks to the Ladies' Committee of the Bedfordshire Hospital Guild, who always supply invalid diet to their patients who are under their nurses' care.

An interesting field of work is the Training School for young coloured nurses attached to the Lincoln Hospital, New York City. Excellent results are obtained by preparing these young women to be nurses, and to hold positions of trust in civic work and in philanthropical institutions. The Training School is larger than ever before. The latest report shows the excellence and sound basis on which the nurses are trained, e.g.:—"The drug department at Lincoln Hospital is a centre of great importance. It is in this laboratory that the nurses have the opportunity to become familiar with the materials from which medicaments are made, and to see the vegetable and mineral substances described in their textbooks, so that to them materia medica may mean something more than Latin names and poisonous doses.

An endowed bed has been presented to the hospital for the use of pupil and graduate nurses requiring hospital care.

One hundred and fifty-nine nurses have graduated from this hospital, and the Alumnae Association, which was formed in 1901, has

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