

NURSING ECHOES.

Congratulations to the Liverpool Queen Victoria District Nursing Association. At the recent meeting held in the Town Hall, Miss Mather, presiding in the absence of the Lord Mayor, proposed the adoption of the report, and congratulated the Association on having been able to continue the work despite the great difficulties with which they had to contend. She was pleased that the committee had seen their way to increase the remuneration of the nurses. The nursing profession had not hitherto been adequately remunerated.

Indeed they have not, and it should be a *sine qua non* that "Queen's Nurses" should enjoy a salary of not less than £1 a week. It is impossible for them to save on less, and they have no pensions. Let us hope that after the war these most invaluable social workers may receive the financial recognition they deserve. It is time the public realised that the Queen's Nurses are truly a national asset, and treated them justly, if not with generosity.

In response to an advertisement for a woman inspector of massage establishments and employment agencies at a commencing salary of £120 per annum, the London County Council has received hundreds of applications, the applicants ranging from women with university honours to those hitherto engaged in domestic work, but who felt competent to take the post. One candidly owned that she knew nothing of the "trade" of massage inspector, but was willing to learn it.

It is pitiable to hear of hundreds of women willing to take such responsible work at such poor pay. Many untrained persons employed by the County Council are paid much higher salaries. Surely there must be something wrong in such a system.

We know that the purses of trained nurses are slender, and that there are innumerable calls upon them, but nevertheless those members of their own profession who, through no fault of their own, have fallen upon evil times, have a very special claim, and we therefore wish to bring to their notice the peculiarly sad case of one of their colleagues, a fully trained nurse, who at the age of 57 can earn nothing owing to defective eyesight. More than two years ago her right eye was operated on to save the left; her small income of 10s. per week is infinitesimal to cover the cost of rent, coal, maintenance, and incidental expenses. If her general health can be main-

tained, Sir Anderson Crichtett hopes that she may retain the little sight she has left, and it is therefore particularly pathetic that she should write:—"I do not owe a penny, never get what I can't pay for, and I look round my little things to see what I can sell, but have nothing of any value. I do want to retain my bit of sight, and Sir A. Crichtett said it all depended upon my bodily strength, but some days I want and could eat more than I can afford. I have many blessings, but of course my life is rather lonely not being able to work. I would earn if I could, but people want you to see, don't they?"

We have made enquiries about this case, and the Rector of Leigh-on-Sea writes that he knows the nurse "very well indeed, and can thoroughly recommend her for assistance. Her present condition is entirely due to her misfortune in losing her sight. She has worked hard and well until compelled to give up, and indeed she ought to have done so years ago had she only to consult her health, but her circumstances did not allow of it."

A lady who has known the nurse for about nine years, and who was formerly a hospital nurse, also writes that any help given her "would be indeed money well bestowed."

Perhaps some nurses may be able to interest patients grateful for the care they have received from trained nurses in this sad case. We shall be glad to acknowledge and forward to her any donations sent us on her behalf. We feel sure that gifts in kind would also be acceptable, and if anyone desires to send these to her regularly, we would give her name and address.

In our issue of March 4th appeared an article on "Babies' Camps" signed by H. H., initials which the readers of this JOURNAL know indicate Miss Henrietta Hawkins, whose wide experience as Hospital Sister, Matron, and Poor Law Guardian, and keen human sympathy, combined with literary ability, give exceptional weight to the opinions therein expressed. Last week our letter bag brought us an interesting comment from a reader and correspondent in Italy, who writes:—"I have seen no correspondence on the article on 'Babies' Camps.' It struck me as important. Babies are, and will be more than ever, important: *idem* morality, *idem* health. Experience has proved to me that babies reared in *city* homes (especially if 'bottle' ones) have small chance of health. Also that the greatest factor in redeeming 'girl mothers' is *keeping the babe*. In all our maternities the girl (or woman) who puts her first child among the foundlings returns for other births in the large majority of cases;

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