

## NURSING ECHOES.

On Tuesday, Miss Haughton, Matron of Guy's Hospital, visited Leicester, and spoke, on the invitation of Miss Vincent, Matron of the Royal Infirmary, on the College of Nursing and the Nurses' Registration Bill which it is promoting. Colonel Bond presided at the meeting, which took place in the Lecture Room of the Nurses' Home, and urged the necessity for nurses to set their house in order now, so that after the war there might not be a state of disintegration, and the position of nurses worse than it is at the present time.

Miss Haughton said that the College of Nursing, Ltd., was not first thought of in connection with State Registration, but as a voluntary movement for the registration of trained nurses; but it was found that registration apart from the State was practically useless, and its first object now was to obtain State Registration for Nurses, and a Bill had been drafted with this object.

The College was very largely an educational movement, therefore they wanted the governors of hospitals to take an interest in it, because the education of probationers lay mainly in their hands. The Council of the College wanted nurses to register themselves voluntarily now. If they registered now they would pay the fee of £1 is. for always. The College had made the rule that two-thirds of the Council under the Bill must be trained nurses. The Hon. Arthur Stanley had much political power, and could get the nurses' Bill through if only the nurses would support him.

It was quite clear that the fee of one guinea would not cover expenses, but all big educational bodies were endowed, and they were going to ask the public to endow the College. They would need at the least £100,000. There was still money in England, and Mr. Stanley thought it ought to be forthcoming.

At the annual meeting of the Grantham Victoria Nursing Association, when the Vicar (Canon W. I. Carr Smith) presided, the Committee reported that the work of the Victoria Nurses had gone steadily on during the past year, and their services had been greatly appreciated. Their senior nurse, Miss Footner, left them in December, to take up military work in Plymouth, but the Association was fortunate in securing Miss Scott, who came to Grantham with the highest credentials, and she was ably assisted by Miss Dorothy Forder. The districts had been inspected twice since their last annual meeting, and both times excellent reports were sent in.

A discussion took place as to the position of the nurses in regard to cases to which a doctor had not been summoned.

The Rev. H. E. Stancliffe asked whether or not a doctor had to be in attendance at a case before they could have one of the Association's nurses?—The Chairman said that a doctor should be in charge. Miss Hardwick said every patient must be under the care of a qualified medical practitioner. She understood the senior nurse that if she was asked to visit a case, and no doctor was in attendance, she suggested to the patient that a doctor should see the case. It was no part of a nurse's business to diagnose. The Rev. H. E. Stancliffe said there was another nurse at work in the town. The idea was she should nurse those people who had not got a doctor. He rather wanted to know what the position was. The Chairman said he thought they had always felt it was not fair to the nurses to make them responsible for a case. It was neither fair to the nurse nor the patient. People were careless often about having a doctor, even in some cases which were serious, and in the interests of nurse and patient it was desirable that a doctor should see every case.

Mr. Williamson inquired whether in an urgent case with which a nurse was acquainted, she was justified in saying she would not attend unless a doctor had been? Dr. Poole-Berry replied in the negative. She would go, but would not undertake continual treatment of the case. Mr. Williamson instanced a case where a nurse was called upon, and she said she could not possibly go unless a doctor was in attendance. It was urgent, and the old lady died. Miss Hardwick said she should like those sort of things authenticated, otherwise it was difficult to get to the bottom of matters. Sometimes they had a great deal of hearsay, and when it was inquired into there was found to be no ground for it. She did not doubt Mr. Williamson's word, but people spoke so inaccurately, and they put interpretations upon things which were not intended. The Executive Committee held their meetings once a month, and they were quite glad to investigate anything of that kind, and have it put right. If Mr. Williamson knew of that case, it would have been a kindness if he could have sent it in and let them investigate it.

We quite agree with this point of view.

Honour to whom honour is due. Recognition of good work is sweet, and the Matron and staff of the Stockton and Thornaby Hospital must have appreciated the generous recognition

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