

NURSING ECHOES.

We learn that Cupid^d has actually had the audacity to plant a dart in high places in the London Hospital world. We are not surprised: charming young Matrons cannot always remain immune from the shafts of this mischievous little sport.

At the general meeting of the South Yorkshire Branch of the National Poor Law Officers' Association, held recently at Barnsley, congratulations were received on the initiation of a separate Section for Nurses, which was considered a step forward. The Secretary, Mr. Richmond, made a lengthy report on the College of Nursing scheme, and said it was essential that if Poor Law nurses were to safeguard their interests they should be adequately represented on the governing body of the College, and the N.P.L.O.A. had placed its organization and machinery at their disposal, in order that this object might be achieved. He said the Association was a progressive body, and was determined to watch the interests of Poor Law Nurses, and he was amazed to find that sections of the nursing press were attempting to dissuade nurses from joining the Association, and such a policy was as petty as it was wrong.

Our point of view is that Poor Law Nurses should so organize themselves as to be able to represent their own profession on all authorities which attempt to deal with their economic and educational affairs.

The Nursing Staff of the Bath Union decided to form a Section within the Gloucester and Somerset Branch at a recent meeting. The Master was in the chair, and it was resolved that every nurse on the staff should join the National Poor Law Officers' Association. The following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That the members of the staff at Bath Poor-Law Infirmary, being members of the National Poor-Law Officers' Association, recommend that a Nurses' section of the Gloucester and Somerset Branch be formed with the object (1) To watch the interests of Poor-Law nurses. (2) To consider nursing questions that arise from time to time. (3) To see that efforts are made to secure fair representation on the Council of the College of Nurses and to safeguard the interests of Poor-Law Nurses in any legislation promoted by that or any other authority."

The staff appointed Miss Turner and Sisters Bayne, Green, Jolley, and Lovick a sub-committee to deal with any business that may arise in the interim, and before the Gloucester and

Somerset Branch appoint a Nurses' Section. The Superintendent Nurse and Staff, it was stated at the meeting, are desirous of doing all in their power to assist the Gloucester and Somerset Branch, especially the proposed Nurses' Section, and should the Secretary consider it advisable, they will be pleased to hold a meeting of nurses in Bath, and afterwards entertain their fellow-nurses from other Unions.

By request of the Lambeth Board of Guardians, Dr. Baly, the Medical Superintendent, and Miss Byles, the Matron, recently presented a report upon the situation in the infirmary owing to the scarcity of nurses. The Medical Superintendent said the present position was that there are twenty-six trained nurses, excluding the Matron and her assistants, against thirty-four sanctioned, together with the full number of probationers—namely, 128. The Matron reported that as no wards had been closed for cleaning this summer it had been difficult to arrange the annual leave of the staff, and "I have been obliged to engage several private nurses at two guineas a week. Two are still here. These have been by no means easy to obtain. On one occasion I applied to eleven institutions, and met with the same answer from all—that they could not obtain a sufficient number of nurses for their own needs. Trained nurses are practically impossible to obtain, and since the commencement of the war there have always been some vacancies for sisters and staff nurses unfilled."

Commenting upon these reports the Infirmary Committee authorised the filling of vacancies in the trained staff by probationers, and the employment of as many extra probationers as can be accommodated.

It is well known that a number of stations of the Universities Mission to Central Africa have been situated in German East Africa, and at the beginning of the war forty-one members were interned, since which time until recently no news has been received of them. Amongst them were ten trained nurses—Miss M. G. Burn, Miss Kemsley, and Miss Packham—all of whom have been engaged in nursing in the German Hospitals. Miss Kemsley is at Dar-es-Salaam, and Miss Packham, whose portrait we recently published, is at Mrogoso. Miss Burn, who was educated at Cheltenham College, and trained at the London Hospital, has arrived in England, and states that for a long time she worked with a Dr. Muller, an excellent surgeon, who refused to believe the reports sent to him that she was a spy. Amongst those she worked

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