

### NURSING ECHOES.

This has been a record year of work and worry for hospital matrons: workers have been so limited, both in the nursing and domestic departments, and we all know how matrons are often expected to make bricks without straw. We are the more pleased, therefore, to see recognition upon the part of hospital committees of the manner in which the majority of matrons have risen to the occasion, and "carried on" with so much spirit. At the annual meeting of the Royal Infirmary, Wigan, the Chairman, in speaking of the nursing department, said "the matron and staff have done wonders." No doubt other chairmen can tell the same tale. Let them place such recognition on record: it is a great incentive to further effort.

The Women's War Procession, on Saturday, July 22nd, which is being organized by the Women's Social and Political Union, 114, Great Portland Street, is intended to include all women, no matter what their political convictions, who feel strongly on the need for vigorous measures in the prosecution of the war abroad, where strong measures for the protection of British prisoners of war are urgently needed, on sea a free hand for the Fleet, and at home—where the members of the Union consider that the enemy alien should be interned. They also demand the cancellation of Naturalisation Certificates granted to those who continue to be Germans, and a drastic reform of the Naturalisation Laws, in order to prevent Britain from being permeated and undermined by Germans in future.

The Women's War Work Secretary, Miss Elsie E. Bowerman, writes:—"We are hoping to have a special section in the procession to represent the War Work of Women, and we are most anxious to have a large number of nurses. . . . We are sure that this would be a splendid opportunity for paying a tribute to Florence Nightingale, the Founder of Modern Nursing."

Nurses are working night and day just now, but we hope some will be able to take part in a demonstration which means "no wobbling in war."

At a recent meeting of the members of the Devon and Cornwall Branch of the National Poor Law Officers' Association, a discussion took place on the urgent need of nurses becoming members of the Association, arising from a letter from the National Association Execu-

tive. It was stated that large numbers of women now doing V.A.D. work in the hospitals looking after wounded soldiers, would adopt nursing as a career. If that happened, the nursing profession would be overcrowded, which might induce Boards of Guardians to accept such nurses at low salaries. Poor Law nurses, therefore, required the protection which that Association could afford. It was intended to establish a College of Nursing, and to induce Poor Law nurses to submit themselves to examination, so as to secure certificates of efficiency.

We gather from paragraphs headed "The Enemy within the Gate" in the *Poor Law Officers' Journal* that the National Poor Law Officers' Association objects to the professional co-operation of Poor Law nurses as such, and that the "enemy within the gate" are those matrons and others who realise that nursing, like medicine, cannot be confined within the narrow limits of the Poor Law, and that members of both professions, even if attached to Poor Law institutions, have a right to co-operate professionally outside the Association. We are entirely in sympathy with this view, and have more than once suggested that nurses trained in Poor Law hospitals should form a society of their own, as their Matrons and Superintendent Nurses have done, so that they can consider their own affairs, and, through the National Council of Nurses, come into sisterly association with various Leagues and Societies of hospital nurses.

We must confess that when the nominated list of persons was announced to form the Council of the College of Nursing—a body which proposed to define nursing standards and register trained nurses—it appeared to us an extraordinary anomaly that whilst not one of the powerful societies of trained and certificated nurses were represented, the Poor Law Officers' Association was accorded representation, although it has absolutely no claim whatever to participate in the expert work of defining nursing educational standards or controlling our professional discipline. The Association, which is composed of workhouse officials of all grades from master to porter, has its uses, no doubt, but the control of the nursing profession cannot be included in its duties. We hear, however, that all over the country Poor Law lay officials are being nominated on to the Consultative Board of the College, and that in consequence a rising determination upon the part of the nursing profession to resist any such control will have to be taken into consideration if the College is to continue.

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