

NURSING ECHOES.

We gather from the lay nursing press that an attempt is being made through its meddling interference to arouse hospital Secretaries to busy themselves about our Nurses' Leagues, but no doubt these gentlemen have far too much sense to be used for any such purpose. Hospital Secretaries have themselves a most useful Association through which they co-operate for professional purposes, and through which they can meet, become personally acquainted, and discuss their own, and hospital affairs generally, and exchange much useful information. They have nothing to do with the Leagues of certificated nurses or medical associations, and our experience has always been, when attending League meetings in hospitals, that the Committees, Secretaries, and other male officers of the institutions have given every facility for the meetings to take place, and treated the nurses with the utmost courtesy. The Leagues are not going to be dictated to by Sir Henry Burdett, or permit him to make mischief in their affiliated organization, the National Council of Trained Nurses. For the circulation of his very profitable nurses' publications he has the run of the Royal National Pension Fund and the College of Nursing, Ltd. The Leagues are Societies of Certificated Nurses of an entirely professional character, and intend to remain so.

The *League Journal* of the City of Westminster Infirmary Nurses' League is a most admirable issue, and contains the portraits of the two first members to receive the honour of the R.R.C.—Sister M. Huffer and Sister Elizabeth Charles.

Extracts from the "Letter Bag" are always exceedingly interesting. A Sister who has taken up nursing in a munition factory sends a few particulars of her important national work. She writes:—"I am in charge

of what is called a rest room, which is really an out-patient department for munition girls, provided for treatment of minor injuries and cases of trivial illnesses, or temporary indisposition. There are various rashes caused by the different poisons, others suffer from headache and vomiting, but many, after a few hours' rest, are able to return to their work, if they show no sign of improvement, are sent on to Hospital. I also get quite a number in with brass splinters in their fingers, which, if not attended to at once, are liable to lead to blood-poisoning. They must come and have the smallest cut or scratch attended to immediately, because of the danger of the poison they are constantly handling. There is a day

and night Sister, and each week we take alternate day and night duty. On entering the building, we first have to go into what is called the shifting room, here we exchange our boots for magazine shoes, after which we are not allowed to touch the ground, but have to walk on raised wooden platforms, which extend for miles. The girls must not wear any article of clothing which has metal buttons upon it, not even a linen covered one, hairpins have to be removed, and purses to be given up, and instead, they are provided with leather bags for their money, while at work, which are hung round their necks. There are excellent canteens, where good hot dinners are provided for

both day and night shifts, at a very small cost. There is also a quick meal canteen, where the girls can make tea for themselves, and bring in anything to be made hot. Each canteen has a piano, and after meals the girls sing and dance, and they always seem very happy. There is a nice restaurant provided for officers, where there is a variety of well-cooked food, or the Sisters can have anything brought to the rest room by the canteen attendant. This side of nursing I find quite interesting."

We are glad to note from the Treasurer's Report that a tidy sum has been spent on



SISTER M. HUFFER, R.R.C.
Member City of Westminster Infirmary
Nurses' League.

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