

NURSING ECHOES.

The following letter has been sent to the Press, signed by H.R.H. Princess Louise, President of the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses; Dr. A. H. F. Barbour, Chairman of the Scottish Council; and Lady Susan Gilmour, Hon. Secretary:—

In these war times it has been decided to forego the usual annual meeting of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and through the Press to remind the public of its pre-eminent claim as one of the most deserving of all health-saving institutions.

The work of the Queen's Nurses in attendance on the sick poor in their own homes is so well known that it need not be described. We cannot look forward to any diminution in sickness or in the need for the services of these nurses; in fact, in view of the various schemes on foot for the protection of child life, there is every probability that in the near future the calls for these services will become much greater. On the other hand, unless subscriptions and donations increase, the Institute will be unable to overtake the training of nurses in sufficient numbers to meet the constant demands.

Except for a small annual grant from the original endowment fund, the cost of the Institute in Scotland has been met for the last twenty-eight years by funds raised at the Diamond Jubilee and in commemoration of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, and also by subscriptions and donations from the public. Of late the annual expenditure has always exceeded the income, and we are encroaching on our capital. We have, therefore, to ask those who have the interests of this work at heart to give what is required to prosecute and extend it without anxiety and without stint.

May we add that the Institute and its nurses are not behindhand in patriotism and self-sacrifice, and that of the 424 Queen's Nurses in Scotland, thirty-five are with the Army abroad, and ninety-nine are on military service in this country, while two have given their lives in the cause.

All donations and subscriptions will be most gratefully received, and should be sent addressed to the President, H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, 26, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh.

There is no more important or finer nursing work than that done by Queen's Nurses for the sick poor in their own homes, and those who support it may be assured that they get excellent value for their money.

The question of the change of uniform for the female staff under the Metropolitan Asylums Board has aroused a considerable amount of comment, which, as the readers of our correspondence columns will gather, is, in the main, adverse. We have received a private letter on the subject from a much-esteemed corre-

spondent, and, with permission, give our readers the gist of this communication.

The writer is of opinion that the belief that the maids in the M.A.B. service are to wear the same uniform as the nurses is erroneous. The real reason for the change is the difficulty in obtaining certain materials owing to war conditions. Not only is there this difficulty, but considerable economy will be effected by buying large quantities of the same material, instead of small quantities of different materials. For this reason alone our correspondent considers the Metropolitan Asylums Board justified in its action. The recommendation of the General Purposes Committee to the Board was originally that the uniform scale should be amended as advised, and continue in force until further orders, but the latest information is that, though the measure is one which has been brought about by war conditions, the alteration is very likely to become permanent.

In regard to the views of the Matrons working under the Board, our correspondent states that on three occasions they were summoned to meet the Committee which was dealing with the matter. A considerable majority were in favour of the changes, and there is reason for believing that the opinion of the Matrons had great weight with the Committee.

As to the confusion which some of the Board's Sisters and nurses are apprehensive may arise from all grades in the Nursing Service wearing the same dress material, our correspondent does not anticipate any such trouble, and is of opinion that the new uniform should be given a trial.

The point is made that in the Army the same colour is worn by all ranks from general to private, but the higher ranks do not grouse about it.

The paragraph in the Committee's report which occasioned the belief that the domestic staff are to wear the same uniform as the nursing staff is Clause (f), which runs:—
"Other Staff.—Housekeepers, house-mothers, cooks, needle-room staff, and head laundresses throughout the service in future to wear dresses of Oxford shirting," which, following the intimation that the uniform dress of the various grades of the nursing staff is to be of plain Oxford shirting, certainly bears this interpretation. We are glad to receive a reliable assurance that this is not the case.

The late Mr. Henry Jones, of Bramley, Bournemouth, left his nurse attendant, Miss Alice Selina Williams, £1,500, in gratitude for her skilled care.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)