

NURSING ECHOES.

Miss Amy Hughes, who has resigned the position of General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, is to visit County Centres and enlighten them on its work.

Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, founded in 1889, is looking forward to great extension after the war, with further improvements in the conditions of service for Queen's Nurses.

Few people appear to realise that it is no easy matter to become a Queen's Nurse. To-day the qualifications of a Queen's Nurse include not less than three years' hospital training, six months' experience in a district nursing home, and, if the nurse is to be employed in midwifery, she must satisfy the requirements of a Central Midwives Board and be certified under the Midwives Act (1902). In the district home she learns how to adapt the knowledge and skill she has gained in hospital to the circumstances of her district patients, and how to make the best of the unfavourable conditions and limited appliances in a poor home. The course of district training includes lectures, with special application to district work, on hygiene and domestic sanitation, sick-room cooking, gynaecological nursing, social subjects, and tuberculosis. At various periods certificates are awarded her, and after twenty-one years' service marked by good and loyal work for the Institute she receives a special gold and enamel badge.

One of the serious consequences of the war, so far as the Institute's direct work is concerned, has been the deflection of the supply of hospital-trained nurses entering for district work. Probationers and others are naturally and patriotically attracted to the nursing of our wounded soldiers, and in this respect Queen's Nurses have done grandly. Some 600 Queen's Nurses are doing war work, and many of them have been awarded distinctions for their services, and, in many cases, heroism. Several have given their lives for their country. After the war, with further improvements in the conditions of service, it is hoped that a large number of nurses may see their way to taking up and returning to, district nursing. Admirable scope will be found for them after the war in the urgent work ahead. Especially is this so in connection with the schemes for maternal and child welfare, and as health visitors, either in connection with the affiliated associations or as whole-time officials, under the health authorities.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The N.U.T.N. hopes to organize a two days' Conference at an early date, as there are several important professional questions of vital interest to members of the profession generally, with which trained nurses should acquaint themselves, and in which it is their duty to the community to take an intelligent interest. Interesting Scientific Lectures will be given, and it is hoped to have a social gathering.

Social workers are invited to call at the office of the National Union, 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, and see the interesting selection of leaflets. Tea at the same address is now procurable.

THE NEW CALENDAR FOR 1918.

The Union has taken time by the forelock, and its new Calendar for 1918 is published and on sale. The cover is charming in colour and design—in the centre a pilgrim climbing towards the stars—the motto of the Union is "Per Ardua ad Astra"—with a border on misty blue of the star-like flower—the alpine Star of Bethlehem, a very pretty conceit. This Calendar, sold at 1s. and containing quotations for each day of the year, makes a delightful little gift. The subjects for the months and quotations are all distinct from those issued for 1917. For January we have—Stars and Ideals; February—Woman; March—Work and Happiness; April—Nature; May—Flowers; June—Friends; July—Children; August—Love; September—Contentment; October—Pain and Joy; November—Life and Death; December—Mysticism.

The following quotations will show the discernment and delicacy in their choice:—

STARS AND IDEALS.

Now in thy splendour go before us,
Spirit of England, ardent eyed,
Enkindle this dear earth that bore us,
In the hour of peril purified.

* * * *

And now, go seek thy peace in war—
Who falls for love of God, shall rise a star.

Ben Jonson.

WOMAN.

For each of all her days, when read aright,
Is like some ancient missal's flaming page;
Bordered with roses, garlands, fantasies,
Set in the midst with precepts of the Law.

WORK AND HAPPINESS.

Whoever fears God, fears to sit at ease.

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Get leave to work in this world,
'Tis the best you get at all.

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