

NURSING ECHOES.

The thoughts of all of us are very much overseas just now. Our own Nurses are continually crossing the English Channel, while the Nurses of our Colonies, with no fear in their hearts of German submarines, make long voyages, all with the same purpose of nursing our sick and wounded sailors and soldiers. By the kindness of Miss Claridge, several members of the Nursing Profession were invited to tea at the Over-Seas Club, Aldwych, on Tuesday last, to meet some of our Colonial sisters. Among them were Miss Thurston, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, New Zealand Expeditionary Force, and Mrs. Parkes, wife of the Director of Medical Service, New Zealand, who has just arrived to join her husband, who has been engaged in war service for two years and a half. Over our cups ("the cup that cheers but not inebriates"!), we talked of the many things that the war has brought into prominence and made so specially interesting to Nurses. Not least among the good work accomplished during the war has been that of Mrs. Parkes, who has done much for the patriotic service of her country and infants' welfare. The latter branch of work is being prosecuted with vigour and enthusiasm. She explained that the "Plunket Nurses"—an officially recognised body, and who are analogous to our Public Health Nurses—specialise in infant welfare work. Although it is fully recognised by the Government that the saving of the babies is of fundamental importance to the country, there is no coercive legislation. The expert knowledge and skill of these Nurses is at the service of the mothers, if they choose to apply for it. This they apparently do; even the Maori mothers are glad to avail themselves of their opportunities in this respect. Dr. Truby King, who has introduced a new system of infant feeding, is expected to arrive in England next February, when he will explain it. This event will be looked forward to with much pleasure by English Nurses.

An interesting Conference was held at the Caxton Hall on November 6th to discuss "The Duty of the Church to the Mentally Afflicted."

The meeting was presided over by the Bishop of London, and the speakers included Dr. Maurice Craig on "The Value of Personality in Mental Work," Dr. Shuttleworth on "The Work with Mentally Defective Children," Dr. Helen Boyle on "The Present Opportunities," and the Rev. A. H. Baverstock on "The Religious Problem."

It was satisfactory to note that several of

the speakers laid stress on the necessity for sound scientific training for all persons connected with mental work, Dr. Maurice Craig's remarks on this subject being especially valuable.

The Bishop, in his concluding remarks, struck the same note, and feared that if amateurs rushed in where angels feared to tread, the work would be permanently injured.

The Chaplain of Claybury spoke on the desirability of attracting a higher class of person to minister to the insane.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Irish Nurses' Association was held on the 3rd inst., the President, Miss O'Flynn, presiding. There were also present Misses Ramsden, Carson-Rae, Kearns, Roberts, Huxley, Hughes, Barber, and Mrs. Corbett.

There was some discussion on the Midwives Bill for Ireland. Eight trained nurses and three midwives were elected members and associates of the Association.

The ballot papers for electing twelve representatives of affiliated societies to serve on the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.W. were laid before the Committee.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Those who hope to attend the Conference of the National Union of Trained Nurses at 3, Vere Street, London, W., on November 16th and 17th, will be interested to know that two of the firms of limb makers at the Roehampton Home will send men each day to demonstrate the use of artificial limbs, from 3.30 to 5.

Applications from those who wish to visit the war hospitals, or Guy's massage and light departments, should be sent at once to the N.U.T.N. office, 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, enclosing 1s. 6d. for Season Ticket, admitting to all meetings, to the concert, and to the hospitals.

"A THOUSAND AND ONE USES FOR GAS."

The October number of "A Thousand and One Uses for Gas," an illustrated monthly published by the British Commercial Gas Association, of 47, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, deals with the application of coal gas to industrial purposes, with particular reference to the heat treatment of metals. In an article by Mr. S. N. Brayshaw, M.I.Mech.E., interesting particulars are given of the economy in working costs and increase in all-round efficiency effected by the substitution of gaseous for solid fuel furnaces, and it is stated that recent developments in the use of low-pressure air with the gas furnace are bound

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