

NURSING ECHOES.

Southwark Board of Guardians have decided to grant the officers in their institutions an allowance of 4s. per week to purchase any extras they may require, as the existing regulations do not provide for any food, not even for a cup of tea or a slice of bread-and-butter, being supplied to nurses called upon to stay up all night during air raids.

The Chairman said at a recent Board meeting, that nurses had been on duty from six o'clock in the morning until four o'clock the next morning, but after five o'clock they could not break their fast until seven o'clock the next morning, because of the food regulations.

The second of a course of lectures and discussions on "Public Health Problems under War and After-War Conditions," was held in the Lecture Hall of the Royal Institute of Public Health on Wednesday, November 7th. The meeting was presided over by Lady Cowan. In her opening remarks, Lady Cowan said that fatigue was not conducive to output, and munition work statistics proved that increased output was the result of shorter hours. Women temperamentally were not able to stand long hours, and the crux was in the length of the shift.

Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., gave many interesting figures proving the same point. Inspection had shown that where work was carefully allocated, fatigue did not exist to any great extent. The provision of seats for workers where possible had produced excellent results; also attention to proper lighting had

had the effect of reducing eye-strain. Fatigue in relation to age was shown to be greatest in women workers between thirty and forty. This class were generally married women who often pressed for night duty in order that they might have time to attend to household duties in addition. Girls in lodgings, on the other hand, had no such extra work, and were sufficiently paid to be well fed, and have something to spare for recreation.

Higher wages would lead to improvement in health. More trained nurses were wanted to undertake both day and night shifts. All were agreed that the nation can never afford to return to the pitiable condition of the pre-war women's labour market.

Dr. Jane Walker said she wondered at the surprise expressed at the endurance of women in war work. This was not a new thing. Take a hospital nurse. Could any life possibly be more arduous? She had seen tiny frail women lifting and moving heavy, helpless patients, who were heavier than shells. People talked as if it were the outcome of the war. It had been proved long before. Speaking of women in banks, she said that the stuffy atmosphere common to banks

should be improved. Mrs. Garrett Anderson had said that the one thing in which men were superior to women was that they could better stand a stuffy atmosphere.

Mrs. Trustram Eve did not think that women would stay on the land after the war; though it could not be said to injure their physical health, the monotony and loneliness told on their nerves.

Other speakers joined in the discussion, which was a very interesting one. It would



A PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE, BOSTON, U.S.A.
The home care of infantile paralysis.

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