

NURSING ECHOES.

The General Committee of the Queen's Fund for the Maintenance of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses met last week at 58, Victoria Street. Captain Harold Boulton, C.V.O., presided.

The statement of accounts for the year 1917 and a report of the work carried on during the year were presented by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. F. W. Pixley, and carried unanimously. The Executive Committee for 1918 was elected.

The scarcity of several usually common articles of food lays a new responsibility upon trained nurses who come into contact with working-class patients. The more restricted the usual diet of any family, the more alarming is it for them when one of their staple foods is cut off or procurable only in minute quantities. No one can so well allay this natural but unreasonable alarm as a nurse, who is aware that human beings can thrive on the most diverse diets. Nurses have as a rule some knowledge of food values, and are awake to the fact that the absence of fresh meat from the meal makes the eating of green vegetables more necessary than usual. Recent research at the Lister Institute has shown that the accessory food factors called vitamins are almost completely absent from the tinned foods, which are now being substituted for fresh meat, and their presence in fish is still unproven. Potatoes and green vegetables should therefore be eaten with fish, and nurses should keep in mind the fact that oranges, which are generally eaten by children in rather large quantities between Christmas and Easter, are prohibitively dear, and do not furnish the usual safeguard against scorbutic tendencies, which are commoner than is often supposed among young children.

Nurses who have once had their attention directed to the importance of their help in this matter will recognize that the *moral* of a people is easily undermined by even trifling deprivations if these are constantly recurring, and that even needless apprehension is contagious.

The annual meeting of the Leeds Trained Nurses' Institution was held on February 5th, Mr. James E. Maude in the chair. The report, read by the hon. secretary (Mr. W. H. Thorp) stated that the work of the sixty-two nurses who composed the staff had been divided throughout the year in equal proportions between war hospitals and private patients. Altogether 298 cases had been undertaken and 156 refused on account of inability to supply a

nurse. Nine nurses had left, two for work elsewhere, four for war hospitals, two for family reasons, and one retired. These nurses had served for periods ranging from five to twenty-two years. In connection with the district nursing branch of the institution, the total number of cases nursed was 2,699, and visits paid, 68,419.

At a recent meeting of the Kingston-on-Thames Board of Guardians in connection with the report submitted by the Infirmary Committee on the training of probationers, Mr. Broome proposed that the Committee should consider the expediency of having a change of examiner, which was a method adopted by other institutions. It would give a greater feeling of confidence in the examination reports which were published.

Mr. G. Huckle, J.P., Chairman, expressed the opinion that the fact that their probationers when trained were able to secure appointments of the highest value was the best test of the success of the training they received.

The Rev. J. C. Harris, who supported the motion, which was adopted, said that he was in favour of the examiner being selected by the Committee, not the Medical Superintendent.

THE PATIENT POOR.

What bitter weather it has been! How it has intensified the suffering of poor mothers and little children who have fled half-clothed from their own homes to seek comparative safety in some more substantial building during the air raids.

We who have not been obliged to forsake our own roof-tree have tasted something of what the cold was in the early part of the week, and have been thankful to end our vigil consoled with our warm beds and hot bottles.

Listen while we paint you a picture of last Sunday night.

A cold, icy-cold church is the best shelter that can be afforded in one London slum. Why couldn't it be warmed? No money to pay for the fuel.

One poor woman arrives breathless from her flight, with five children. She herself carries the ex-baby, whilst a small girl struggles in with the baby proper. No hats! no warm coats! They are huddled, the other two, under a threadbare piece of blanket.

They are still wearing their Sunday "pinnies," discoloured with many washings, and tattered as to trimming—the pathetic attempt of mother to do honour to the day.

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