

NURSING ECHOES.

We desire to emphasise the appeal to Health Workers—among whom trained nurses, of course, hold a foremost place—made by Dr. Knyvett Gordon in his illuminating article, published on page 200 of this issue, on the Social Significance of Syphilis. Dr. Gordon's message is a message of hope, namely, that in the administration of Salvarsan, or its allies, we have a remedy capable of curing the patient, and he entreats women public health workers to inculcate the necessary knowledge of the signs of syphilis, the manner in which it is contracted, and can be avoided.

Nurses who are saddened by the knowledge of the ravages made by this terrible disease, and of the appalling sufferings of men, women, and little children from its effects, will surely respond wholeheartedly to this appeal. They will note also Dr. Gordon's opinion that, in regard to infected women, the work of the Venereal Clinics, valuable as this is, requires supplementing, not only by educational influence, but by the free issue of Salvarsan to private practitioners. Many women will not avail themselves of the benefits of the Clinics, and, even if they are willing to do so, the distances in the country are often too great for this to be practicable. Dr. Gordon writes:—"In taking your message to the sufferers, and the unwary, sound the clear note of hope, and not the discordant chorus of terror and secrecy." This is a message which should be written in letters of gold, put into practice, and passed on to others.

We note with pleasure that at a recent meeting of the Manchester and Salford Labour Party the following resolution, moved by a delegate of the Municipal Nurses' Union, was carried by an overwhelming majority:—

"Owing to the special nature of the work that will be required in the Nursing Schools under the new Education Bill, the scheme demands a staff of nurses rather than teachers, and the Manchester and Salford Labour Party calls upon the Government to make it clearly understood that the chief of each staff should be a fully qualified nurse."

An Amendment to the effect that a nurse should be in charge of the health of the children in these schools, and a teacher in charge of their mental development, was defeated, only four delegates voting for the Amendment as against the Resolution.

The points raised by the mover of the Resolution were received with applause.

The result attained in this instance shows how important it is that the point of view of trained nurses on health questions should be placed before the Labour Party.

An all-day missionary working party was held at Guy's Hospital on March 12th in the Nurses' Home. £4 17s. had been collected and spent on materials for bandages of various kinds, doctors' towels, surgeons' overalls, babies' frocks, to be sent to Miss Wilkinson, St. Stephen's Hospital, Delhi. Unfortunately, the gloriously sunny day tempted many out of doors who might have assisted, but, in spite of this, a satisfactory amount of things were completed. King George's and the Great Northern Hospitals were represented. Dr. Catherine Ironside made an appeal for help and more nurses in Persia. Miss Hawley, from the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, gave a very interesting account of her two years in Serbia as a prisoner, where she was working when war broke out.

It was announced at the quarterly Court of the London Hospital last week that the King had sent £500 to the quinquennial appeal, and that the new home for nurses which Queen Alexandra commanded should be named the Cavell Home, in memory of Nurse Edith Cavell, would probably be ready for occupation in May next. Sir George Frampton, the eminent sculptor, had generously presented a bust of the late Miss Cavell, which would be placed in the sitting-room belonging to the nurses.

Nurses have to thank the editor of *The Vote* for the liberal amount of space devoted in last week's issue to Miss Kent's excellent article on "The Great Crisis in the Nursing Profession." Women's organizations and journals will do well not to support the College of Nursing, Ltd., and the "Nation's Fund for Nurses" without enquiry, otherwise they may do a very serious injustice to the rank and file of the nursing profession. We have been surprised to find how apt leisured women are to ignore the rights of those of their sex who work in ill-paid professions. What is required is conscientious study of the economic condition of professional women by those who are not wage earners. The latter are far too liable to imagine patronage can take the place of knowledge. Ill-considered interference is often most injurious.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)