

NURSING ECHOES.

The members of the Lyceum Club continue their numerous patriotic endeavours. On April 12th, at 4.30 p.m., Maître Gaston de Leval, the eminent Counsel who tried to save Nurse Cavell, will lecture on "The Belgian Tragedy," by invitation of the Belgian Circle, in aid of its Soldiers' Fund. Non-members of the Club may attend by ticket, price 1s. 6d., including tea at 4 p.m., and should apply to the Bureau Secretary, Lyceum Club, 128, Piccadilly, W. Those who have not heard Maître Gaston de Leval speak should avail themselves of this opportunity of doing so.

In connection with the Memorial Appeal to all women for the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital (formerly the New Hospital for Women) it is hoped to endow a "Nurses' and Masseuses' Bed" at the hospital. To further this object a meeting will be held on Saturday, April 13th, at 6 p.m., at the London School of Massage, 211, Great Portland Street, W., to which nurses and masseuses are cordially invited.

We always disapprove as essentially disloyal making use of the name and influence of the Royal Family unless for important national purposes. Many policy holders of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses have strongly objected to the decrease of their little incomes owing to deduction of income tax by the Council of the Fund. We hear some considerable number have withdrawn their savings. We presume Sir Henry Burdett addressed His Majesty on the subject of the Fund, as in a reply addressed to him from Lord Stamfordham, it is stated:—"Everyone interested in this admirable movement cannot but regret the number of policies surrendered during the past year, but the obvious and only reason for this is war."

We would suggest that the Council of the Fund pays the policy holders their annuities in full, and where liable the nurses should pay their own income tax. We believe this to be the right and just solution of the difficulty. The Matrons who represent the policy holders on the Council should look into the matter.

For the last fourteen years Dr. (now Sir James) Cantlie has acted as examiner of the probationer nurses at the Kingston Infirmery, Surrey. The question was recently raised by certain members of the Board whether a change of examiners was expedient, and the Board, after making enquiries of other Unions as to

what is done by them, have decided to continue the practice now in force.

There is no doubt that in Sir James Cantlie the Board have secured an admirable examiner, of great experience, in the theory underlying the practice of nursing. But it is important that the practical side of the nurses' work should also be examined, and for this purpose a member of the nursing profession, with experience in teaching and examining nurses, should be associated with the medical examiner. An examination in practical work by a medical man can only be perfunctory, as his professional training teaches him to order, but not to apply, treatment; but proficiency in practical nursing is of primary importance, and this should be thoroughly tested by an independent nurse-examiner before the award of certificates. We hope, therefore, that the Kingston Guardians will make the dual appointments. They would be setting a progressive example in their excellent Training School.

The Asylum Workers' Association will hold its Annual Meeting at the Mansion House, by the kind permission of the Lord Mayor, on May 29th, at 3 p.m. The Lord Mayor will preside.

The Nurses' Missionary League will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 1st, at University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C. As usual, there will be three sessions—morning, afternoon, and evening. The subject for the day will be "A Fight for Reality: the World's Need, To-day's Opportunities, and the Loyal Response." Amongst the speakers will be the Rev. C. C. B. Bardsley, the Rev. H. G. Peile (S.G.F.), Miss Gurney, Miss Mayers, and Miss Hope Bell. Full programmes will be sent out with the May Leaflets.

Arrangements for Camps are progressing. It is planned to hold one at Old Jordan's Hostel from June 20th-27th, and a second at Mottram St. Andrew, Cheshire, from July 17th-24th. Nurses making arrangements for holidays might keep these dates in mind.

The Rev. J. MacErlean, S.J., preaching in aid of the Children's Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin, recently, eulogised the self-sacrificing work of the Sisters of Charity who are in charge of the institution, which, he said, was the first of the kind founded in Ireland. In the first year of its existence, forty-six years ago, no less than 1,800 of the children of the poor of Dublin were treated within its walls.

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