

NURSING ECHOES.

We congratulate Miss Annie E. Hulme, Hon. Secretary of the Matrons' Council, on the brief Annual Report, which shows that the interest in the Association is well kept up, in spite of the war. Sixteen new members have been elected. This Association is specially useful to those matrons who, as superintendents of the smaller general and special hospitals or Nursing Institutions, are not usually consulted in any way by those in prominent positions in our Nursing Schools, and whose interests and those of their patients and nurses are of very real importance in the scheme of nursing and hospital organization. "Attending the Matrons' Council Meetings has kept me in complete touch with progress in the nursing world," one "little" matron, as she termed herself, stated to us at a recent meeting. The experience and opinions of "little" matrons is of the utmost value to the profession as a whole, and it must not, as it often appears to be, be forgotten that the majority of these ladies hold equal qualifications with many "big" colleagues.

Our remarks on the lack of interest of the nursing profession as a whole in the self-denying work of women in the agitation for the vote during past years, has brought us a letter from a Matron who herself did yeoman service in the cause. She thinks every effort should now be made to urge the claims of nurses working in hospitals and infirmaries to a right to the vote; and the medical superintendent of the hospital of which she is Matron has approached the Registration Agent in the district, who speaks hopefully of getting them allowed. If there is any chance that, after all, nurses over thirty may claim to vote under the new Act, everyone connected with the nursing department should at once bestir themselves and urge their claims. We hope we may be misinformed as to the disqualification of Matrons and Nurses "living in." Anyway, exhibition of keen interest in the question at once can do nothing but good.

The Annual Service of the East London Nursing Society for District and other Nurses will be held in the Crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral, by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter, on Tuesday, May 28th, at 3 p.m. An address will be given by the Rev. H. J. Kitcat, rector of Bow, E. Nurses and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

In the Melbourne Press a correspondence on the question of whether or no a four years' training is necessary for a nurse has been actively carried on, and the public appear to think that the fourth year is not necessary for the training of the nurse, but is demanded for the benefit of the hospital; especially is this considered the case when only general medical and surgical cases are attended, and no practical experience in the care of infectious diseases or maternity cases is provided for during the term. Mothers and fathers plead that the fourth year's hospital work is an undue strain upon their daughters. The matron is considered to have too absolute powers.

"A Woman in Sympathy" writes:—

"I am voicing the opinion of countless other women when I appeal to every association of women to again take up the question of the training of nurses, and to refuse to let it drop until it is on a satisfactory basis.

"I ask women to make it their business to insist on big-minded women having seats on the committee of the Melbourne Hospital. It should not be run by men only.

"On the face of things it is not fair to the men; it is absolutely not men's work to grip the details concerning nurses' well-being. Even when they try to deal with the question as if their own daughters were the nurses, they inevitably find themselves on a rocky coast, and have to abandon their landing.

"Again, is it right that any woman should be so entirely at the mercy of any one individual that she dare not question, nor cause to be questioned, any decree set forth by that one, individual, lest adverse consequences result and her future career and reputation as a nurse be ruined?"

It is not only in Australia that there is a sense of revolt over the fourth year's hospital service. Here the rapid promotion of the untrained V.A.D. in military hospitals, not only to responsible charge of wards, but of the operating theatre, to say nothing of the administration of anaesthetics, has naturally made the "ordinary" nurse furiously to think, especially as in hundreds of cases where, after four years' systematic training and experience, she finds herself, under Joint Committee regulations, sent to work under titled untrained Commandants and Matrons. The injustice of this treatment was sure sooner or later to bear fruit, and the complaisant suggestion recently made by the Matron-in-Chief of the Nursing Service in France, that civil hospitals should count

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