

NURSING ECHOES.

The fact that the Infirmiry Matrons' Association passed a resolution at its recent meeting at Chelsea Infirmiry approving of the abolition of Poor Law Guardians, and urging that it should have representation on any advisory body formed to consider the constitution of the Ministry of Health, has, of course, called forth a protest from the *Poor Law Officers' Journal*, which remarks:—"It testifies to a singular appreciation of the claims of hospitality when within a building administered and controlled by a Board of Guardians an open assembly is gathered for the express purpose of declaring that this Board is not fit even to participate in the control of the work which there is undertaken." The journal calls upon the Poor Law Officials of the Chelsea, Kensington, and Fulham Institutions, who took part in the meeting—as it was proposed that the Boards of Guardians should in each instance be abolished on account of the "urgent needs of the sick poor"—to state the character of these urgent needs by a statement of facts upon which the accusations against their Boards are framed. The journal continues to claim that the charges made deliberately by the Poor Law Infirmiry Matrons' Association in their resolution are a subject which should be dealt with by the National Poor Law Officers' Association, as well as by the Boards of Guardians who are directly implicated by them.

The members of the Poor Law Infirmiry Matrons' Association have a perfect right to form opinions on their work, and to express them, but we are of opinion that courtesy and etiquette demand that criticism of their Boards should be made outside the institutions they control.

Lieut.-Colonel W. I. de Courcy Wheeler, F.R.C.S.I., presided at the 34th Annual Meeting of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution on June 6th, and we gather from his eloquent speech that our proposal for National Colleges of Nursing for England, Scotland, and Ireland meets with favour amongst Irish leaders of nursing education and progress.

Colonel Wheeler said that the present was a critical time in the destinies of trained nurses. As a class they were the hardest worked, worst paid, and, generally speaking, the least considered members of the community. Everyone interested in the profession of nursing watched

with interest the establishment of the new Colleges for Nurses, in the hope that they might well prove a stage on the way to the registration goal. An ambitious and promising scheme had been inaugurated through the efforts of Sir Arthur Stanley in London, and an Irish college, under the auspices of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, was already in a stage of thriving infancy. Personally he preferred the idea of a separate Irish college to an Irish branch of a London college. The nurses of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution were about to register on the roll of the separate Irish college, believing that it would aim at bearing the same relationship of mutual co-operation and reciprocity to the English college as the Irish College of Surgeons and other medical schools bore to kindred institutions in England.

Lieut.-Col. de C. Wheeler spoke with warm admiration of the patriotic work of members of the Institution, both on active and civil duty, and congratulated those whose services had been recognised by the War Office.

In conclusion, Colonel Wheeler said that Miss Carr, the Lady Superintendent, had earned the thanks of the directors for her energy and devotion, and as a mark of appreciation it had been unanimously decided to increase her salary.

The Australian Women's Association has brought the question of long hours and overwork in the hospitals before Mr. J. Bowser, Chief Secretary, Melbourne, Victoria, who described the conditions under which nurses labour in public hospitals as a "grave reproach to all concerned," and who promised the deputation that he would place the matter before the Premier.

"Besides the hard work," said Mr. Lemmon, who introduced the deputation, "the nurses are supposed to be studying, but when attending the lectures they are not in a fit state to benefit by their instruction. The wardsmen have a Wages Board, with regulated hours, and this had actually thrown more work on the nurses, because it is insisted upon that the wardsmen must leave at certain times. It has been stated in a public hospital that it was far cheaper to get nurses than wardsmen. The conditions should be the subject of a special board."

In this country the only workers in hospitals protected by law are the laundry women; the Laundry Act sees to that.

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