

NURSING ECHOES.

Miss Mollett's many friends will be sorry to hear that on Thursday, June 27th, she met with a serious accident when cycling from Bournemouth to her home at Three Cross, near Ringwood. Apparently no immediate help was at hand, and she lay in the road for a considerable time, until a gentleman came by and rendered aid, taking her in a taxi cab to Miss Forrest's Nursing Home, 4, Cambridge Road, Bournemouth. On examination it was found that the injuries sustained were an impacted fracture of femur, a bruised head, and cut arm. Throughout all this Miss Mollett was full of the courage and cheerful endurance which never fails her. She may be sure now, as ever, of affectionate regard and sympathy, and also of good wishes for a steady convalescence and recovery.

Long before the war we claimed just educational and economic conditions for nurses, but until recent events has caused the supply of nurses in all directions to fall short of the demand, those who employed them appeared well content to continue at sweated rates of remuneration. Especially has this been apparent in various branches of district nursing. We note with pleasure the recent awakening of conscience (necessity has a way of driving her lessons home) on this question.

There has been far too much patronage and too little pelf in the conduct of County Nursing Associations in the past, and our Lady Bountifuls are seldom lavish where working women are concerned.

We observe that Mrs. Cooke-Hurle, speaking at the annual meeting of the Somerset Nursing Association at Taunton, said: "She would like to see the time when the salaries of nurses would be raised to such an extent that they would be able to have their full training and adequate payment for their services."

It is the fault of the women organizers and managers of the County Nursing Associations that these just terms have not prevailed in the past. A network of social influence and self-appointed control by the laity has defined the standards of knowledge and the remuneration of district and village nurses all over the country. The standards are woefully insufficient, and the remuneration a sweated wage. The sooner the nursing of the poor is directed by a State Department controlled by a Ministry of Health the better—better for patient and nurse. Class government has had its day.

The Local Government Board has sanctioned a joint scheme entered into between the Nottingham Guardians and the Guardians of the Basford Union for the training of probationary nurses, under which the probationers will receive their first year's training at Basford, and then proceed to Bagthorpe for a further three years' training, including midwifery and massage. By this arrangement the services of candidates who desire to qualify as fully certificated nurses will be secured for the Basford Union.

The King Edward Nurses were organized as a South African Memorial to commemorate the life and aims of King Edward VII, and comprises two divisions (a) European; (b) Coloured and Native, and its immediate object is to make good deficiencies now existing in nursing circles in South Africa.

From the Report of 1917, just to hand, we learn from Miss J. E. Pritchard, Superintendent of the Order, that 1917, like the two previous years, has been one of many difficulties owing to the war. The year was begun with a staff of 15—and ended with 11. The centres have been understaffed, and it is impossible to estimate the work lost, but we gather that much good work has been done, and on visiting the various centres the Superintendent found the nurses much appreciated in the districts.

A new centre was opened during the year at Empangeni, a malarial district, and during the floods, when it was cut off for some time, it was most fortunate that, as there was no doctor, a qualified nurse-midwife was in the place, more particularly as some cases who had arranged to go to a Maternity Home in Durban were unable to get through.

Several applications for resident nurses have not been able to be met owing to the shortage of nurses, but considering the serious understaffing in some of the large civil hospitals, the Superintendent considers the Order fortunate to begin the year with 11 nurses, and she hopes when times are normal to expand the work in many directions.

The Committee report with great satisfaction that upon the completion of her term of contract, Miss Pritchard has consented to continue in her post. The Committee also records its appreciation of the services of Miss Brailsford (Senior Nursing Sister at Ladysmith), and other members of the Order.

The South Australian Branch of the R.B.N.A. was welcomed by the South Aus-

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