

NURSING ECHOES.

Queen Alexandra will visit Norwich on October 12th, the anniversary of the execution of Edith Cavell, to open the Cavell Memorial Home and to unveil the statue of her, both of which memorials have been subscribed for by the residents of Norfolk and the citizens of Norwich. Tombland, adjacent to the Cathedral, is the site of both the home and the statue. Miss Cavell spent the greater part of her life in or near Norwich.

Many nurses will learn with regret that the private nursing agency which has had so long and honourable a career at 123, New Bond Street, S.W., has now closed its doors. Its business has been transferred to the Belgravia Nursing Home at 50, Weymouth Street, W., formerly known as "Miss Pollock's Home," but recently taken over by the above Home, whose present Superintendent is Miss Shebbare, but which was for many years under the superintendence of Miss Kimber.

A conference organised by the National Baby Week Council was held at Bedford College for Women, to inaugurate a propaganda campaign, in which trained nurses are invited to take part, in support of the immediate establishment of a Ministry of Health. Dr. Eric Pritchard, Lord Willoughby de Broke, Dr. Saleeby, Mr. G. P. Blizard, and others expressed the desire of the council to create a strong public opinion with a view to giving speedy effect to the promised introduction of a Ministry of Health Bill, and it was declared that the country would not tolerate the opposition of private or vested interests or departmental jealousies, to the immediate realisation of its demands and hopes. The following resolution was carried unanimously:—"That, in view of the declared intention of the Government to introduce early in the forthcoming session of Parliament a Ministry of Health Bill, the National Baby Week Council calls upon its members and local committees to pursue an active propaganda campaign in favour of such a Ministry, so that the weight of public opinion and the support of the electorate may strengthen the hands of the Government in giving speedy effect to its intentions." The National Baby Week Council has already organised various meetings in the provinces, and is prepared to find speakers to represent it and address such meetings, on application to the Secretary, 27A, Cavendish Square, London, W. 1.

In addition to a war bonus granted by the London County Council by resolution on the 30th of July last, the Council has now sanctioned additional war wages of 5s. a week for officers and employees under the direction of the Asylums and Mental Deficiency Committee, dating from the first pay-week following July 1st. All female officers and employees on the established staff under the direction of the Asylums and Mental Deficiency Committee who are receiving war wages of 7s. a week are eligible to receive this increase.

The remuneration of all temporary attendants under the direction of the above Committee is to be increased to 54s. a week, commencing from July 1st.

Mr. Samuel Whittaker, of Lytham, Lancs, whose estate has been proved at £21,051, left an annuity of £52 to his nurse, Miss Margaret Rossall.

A LOSS TO OUR NURSING SCHOOLS.

Miss M. Heather Bigg will retire from the Matronship of Charing Cross Hospital in December next, having completed sixteen years of service; and the loss to our Nurse Training Schools will be irreparable—although we are glad to learn that the nursing profession is not to lose her active sympathy and invaluable practical help, of which it has never had greater need; when Parliament is to be approached to sanction and appoint a Governing Body for the better organization of nursing education and general control through Bills promoted (1) by the workers, and (2) by their hospital employers. Needless to say, Miss Heather-Bigg has, with most unselfish courage, stood with her independent colleagues in support of the great principle of an independent Governing Body—for which they have fought a valiant fight—and has sacrificed much in her own personal interest in so doing. All the more honour is her due.

Charing Cross Hospital is by no means an easy charge, and during Miss Heather Bigg's term of office its empty wards were occupied by the Matrons and Nursing Staffs of the National Orthopaedic Hospital and the Cancer Wing from the Middlesex Hospital during the rebuilding of their hospitals. It is a feat worthy of recording that such a unique experiment was carried through with perfect accord, and the staffs of both Charing Cross Hospital and the other two hospitals parted with regret on the completion of the rebuilding. As President of the Matrons' Council, Miss Heather Bigg will entertain the members at the October meeting, when they will have an opportunity of expressing to her their affection and gratitude.

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