

NURSING ECHOES.

The Editor wishes to offer her warmest thanks for the very kind and appreciative letters received during the past week from readers of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, many of whom have subscribed to it for the whole twenty-five years during which she has been responsible for its precepts and policy. The Editor intends to keep all these welcome *billets doux*, as she values them most sincerely, but she refrains from publishing them, as they estimate far beyond its merit the work she has done—although she has done her best!

The Editor is still convinced that the most valuable asset a profession can own is a free professional organ in the press, *an organ which is not to be bought*. She asks, therefore, as her reward that those nurses who love freedom will help to keep their JOURNAL alive and buzzing. This can be done by: (1) subscribing to it and supporting its policy; (2) influencing others to do the same; (3) contributing to it, and thus increasing its literary and public value; (4) bringing it to the notice of high-class professional advertisers.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has made great financial sacrifices for the professional principles for which it stands, and so long as the present Editor is in the Chair these principles will be paramount.

We have had some very instructive documents before us recently. How the demoniacal psychology of the Hun has influenced our nursing affairs in England for the past thirty years is almost incredible. Cash and craft, of course!

All the salaries of the various grades of the Nursing Staff at Charing Cross Hospital have been advanced 25 per cent., and the Committee, Matron, and Nurses are all to be congratulated.

At present Sisters receive per annum £45, rising £5 annually to £55.

Probationers—£16, £18, and £20, in first, second, and third years, and as Staff Nurses in fourth year's service £26.

Senior posts are remunerated as follows:—Sister Housekeeper, £70; Home Sister, £60; Maternity Sister, £65; and Night Sister, £50. Add 25 per cent. to these salaries, and we do not wonder the Nursing Staff are very well satisfied.

Board, lodging, washing and uniform are also provided, so that it will be seen such remuneration compares very favourably with the earnings of other professional women

workers. We have no doubt if the right type of women is to be secured for training, all the hospitals and infirmaries must estimate their services at an increased value.

We hope to hear of banking accounts and the purchase of War Bonds.

The question of whether the Nurses' Home at the Staincliffe Poor Law Institution should be under the management of a housekeeper or a nursing sister was discussed last week at a meeting of the Dewsbury Board of Guardians. The Board had decided to fill a vacancy by again appointing a housekeeper, but the Infirmary Committee reported that in consequence of the receipt of a letter from the Sisters they had interviewed the Superintendent Nurse and two other nurses, and after hearing their representations they recommended the Board to rescind the previous resolution and to appoint a "home sister."

Mr. C. H. Appleyard, in moving the adoption of the committee's report, said it was understood that the unanimous desire of the seventy or eighty nurses was that their home should be controlled by a Sister. The committee supported the suggestion because they believed that if it was accepted a grievance would be removed, and the head of the home would have a better understanding and more sympathy with the nurses, who had difficult work to perform while on duty, as often happened, for twelve or more hours at a stretch.

The two Ossett members were not satisfied that a trained nurse would be qualified to undertake the duties of a housekeeper.

Mrs. Whitling replied that the duty of a home sister was to see that the cooks and other servants did their work in such a way as to ensure the comfort of the nurses. What was required was a woman of character to act as a "mother" to all the nurses, and especially to the younger girls who had just left their homes. Neither a housekeeper nor a home sister had to cook or clean, as some members seemed to think.

The Rev. J. E. Crabtree stated that he went to the committee meeting with an open mind, but after hearing the matter discussed he formed the opinion that it was desirable to appoint a home sister who would exercise more influence and secure better discipline than a housekeeper, who had not been a nurse.

Mr. G. Blacker said up-to-date nursing institutions were now being placed under the management of home sisters, and their appointment had been recommended by a lady inspector of the Local Government Board.

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