

## NURSING ECHOES.

Bath is going to raise £2,000 in support of the Nurse Cavell Homes of Rest for Nurses. A room will be called after Bath, and the local committee will have power to nominate a certain number of nurses to occupy it. There are now Homes at Haslemere, Bridport, Market Drayton, Wellington, Tewkesbury, Bristol and Richmond, which will meet the needs of 600 nurses. At present the Homes are full.

A monument to Nurse Edith Cavell and Canadian nurses killed during the war is to be erected at Ottawa by public and private subscription.

It was announced at a recent meeting of the Lincoln Guardians that the Mayor had written stating that the trustees of the Bromhead institution having intimated that for financial reasons they would be unable to carry on after December 31st next the work of district nursing in the city, he had been asked to call together those specially interested in the matter to consider what steps should be taken to ensure that the deserving poor of Lincoln should continue to have available in case of illness the assistance of trained nurses. It was agreed that Mr. Harley and Miss Nevile should represent the Board in the matter.

There is little doubt that Lincoln will make arrangements to organize and continue the benefits of district nursing for its poor, and perhaps on a more modern basis than that which has pertained hitherto. A high standard of training is most essential in this particular branch of nursing. We always resent the semi-trained nurse for the poor.

At the annual meeting of the Dunblane Nursing Association, it was reported that the number of cases attended by Nurse George was 229, and the number of her visits 4,233. The income of this Association was stated to be £130 0s. 9d., and the expenditure £125 14s. 5d. A reverend gentleman described the reports as "most gratifying." He said, "They were greatly pleased with the diligence of the nurse." A second minister remarked that "without such an Association as theirs at the present time, he did not know how Dunblane could exist." The Rev. D. R. Alexander ventured to throw out a suggestion that the nurse should be more highly remunerated. A Mrs. Stewart concurred, but pointed out "that the nurse was paid as much as any nurse they knew of." Colonel Arthur Hay

Drummond, the Chairman, expressed the opinion that "with regard to their finances, he thought they were in a very secure position, and that a church collection was not actually required!"

We are not a bit good at sums, and the report failed to say how much of the munificent sum of £125 14s. 5d. was paid to Nurse George for her 4,233 visits (think of the shoe leather—or brown paper, as the case may be), but in our opinion the committee of the Dunblane Nursing Association is guilty of sweating in connection with their admirable nurse, whose salary alone should certainly not be less than £3 a week.

The State Cabinet in Melbourne has been reviewing a question of concern to the nursing profession—the hours and the working conditions of nurses in public hospitals. The sweating conditions and the starvation wages paid have amounted to a public scandal, says the *Age*. Following on indignant protests in Parliament last March, and the case stated by the Australian Women's Association to the Chief Secretary in April, the Cabinet directed Mr. T. E. Meek, chief clerk of the Treasury, to carry out an investigation. Mr. Meek's report is in the Premier's hands, and it is understood that a reduction of hours is urged, if not the institution of the eight-hour day sought for nurses. The Cabinet's decision to direct reform could be enforced, it is observed, through the influence of the Government subsidies.

Nursing questions have been to the fore recently in the House of Commons at question time.

On November 6th Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck inquired of the Secretary for Scotland the names of the prisons and Polmont institutions in which trained nurses are employed, the number of such nurses, and the qualifications possessed by each; also what provision is made for sick prisoners in institutions in which no trained nurses are employed.

Mr. Munro had to admit that "trained nurses in the professional sense are not employed on the Scottish prison staff, but in the mainland prisons there are male and female officers trained and certified after examination to be qualified for simple nursing. He also stated that medical officers are authorized to engage trained nurses when required, and that there is power to remove serious cases to hospital.

The fees paid to masseuses was also the subject of a question by General Page-Croft.

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