

### NURSING ECHOES.

The Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, in their Report for the year 1917 to the Patron, Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, report "satisfactory progress, notwithstanding the extremely difficult conditions caused by the war. The chief developments have again been in connection with the work in country districts and with the County Nursing Associations in particular; but a considerable increase has been shown in the number of Associations affiliating with the desire to employ Queen's Nurses; and no doubt the number would have been larger had it not been for the shortage of nurses. At the end of the year, 592 Queen's Nurses were on leave for service in connection with the war, and the supply of candidates for training shows no improvement. Every effort is being made to secure the services of nurses who are not required for war nursing, but the number of these available is small, and it is not anticipated that there will be any great increase until the war ceases. Steps are under consideration to organize the training of more Queen's Nurses, so that the machinery may be in order when nurses are set free from War Service.

"The Local Government Board has again co-operated with the Nursing Associations, by means of the grants given for midwifery work, with the object of securing the provision of a satisfactory service of midwives for country districts. It is essential that there should be an adequate supply of well-trained and efficient midwives to check the wastage of infant life. . . . These nurses can also act as school nurses and health visitors."

The supply of efficient midwives is most essential, but unless they are trained as nurses, and conform to the standard for Queen's Nurses, *i.e.*, three years' general and six months' district training, they should not, in our opinion, be enrolled in Nursing Associations with the prestige of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses. Their work is sufficiently extensive and important to be organized in County Midwifery Associations, whether under the authority of the "Queen's" or otherwise. "Village nurse-midwives" have their status under the Midwives' Act, but their nursing is an amateur and unknown quantity, and the suggestion that these midwives can act as school nurses is not one which can be supported.

It is disquieting to find that the number of "Village Nurses" employed by County Nurs-

ing Associations affiliated to the Institute is 1,327, while the total number of Queen's Nurses in England on December 31st, 1917, was 1,357, including Queen's Nurses who are undertaking duty in connection with the war, of whom there were 592 in the United Kingdom. The total number of Queen's Nurses in the United Kingdom on December 31st, 1917, was 2,056.

There have been two new features in the constitution of the Council appointed by Queen Alexandra during the year. For the first time the Superintendents of the Training Homes, and the Superintendents of the County Nursing Associations have each been allowed to appoint a representative.

Her Royal Highness Princess Louise visited the Kensington Infirmary on Friday last, and expressed her warm admiration at all she saw. The Princess was received by the Chairman, the Chaplain, and the Matron. After visiting the beautiful Church of St. Elizabeth, Her Royal Highness passed through the wards, and chatted with the patients.

The "At Home" to meet the Colonial Matrons-in-Chief, held by the Society of Women Journalists at 2-4, Tudor Street, E.C., on July 18th, was a great success. Mrs. Baines and Miss Imandt were the hostesses, and together with the President, Miss Billington, welcomed the guests. Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States of America were represented, and we noticed all sorts of interesting people present, including leading women journalists, all apparently warmly interested in cementing friendship with our overseas nurses, whilst the Matrons-in-Chief expressed the opinion that "it does us a lot of good to come into touch with all these bright women—whose sphere of work is different to our own. We are apt to get a bit narrow in the nursing world." We are bound to admit we found nothing narrow in the views of our overseas Matrons, who one and all appear inspired not only with professional zeal, but with a liberal outlook on life.

The Asylums and Mental Deficiency Committee of the London County Council reported at its meeting on Tuesday that as a war measure it has been necessary to employ women on agricultural and farm work at the mental hospitals. Some nurses have been so employed, and have received a special rate of pay while doing farm work. As there is such difficulty in obtaining nurses, and as it now

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)