

NURSING ECHOES.

How splendidly the Queen's Nurses all over the country have carried on the work during the war is being told at the annual meetings of District Nursing Associations, and we are pleased to note that at last those who employ them, and help to organize their work, are realising the miserable remuneration they receive for their great and beneficent national work. We have always claimed that £50 salary is the very minimum which should be offered to women who are doing more to raise the standard of national health than any other class of workers.

A Meeting of the Queen's Fund for the Maintenance of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses met at 58, Victoria Street on the 3rd March.

The Duke of Portland, who presided, said the report dwelt upon the fact that the supply of Queen's Nurses presented a serious problem. As the standard of living had risen, and the salaries attached to other posts open to nurses had been so greatly increased, it was in August last decided as an emergency measure that the minimum clear salary for a Queen's Nurse should be increased to £40. It would be generally admitted that many of the nurses and staff of the Queen's Institute should receive higher salaries than those paid at present.

The minimum for the nurses in the districts throughout the country paid by the local Associations was now £40 a year, but the Council thought that the minimum should be £50 for a Queen's Nurse everywhere, and it was intended that this recommendation should be made to the Associations. The extra sums required by the Institute had been estimated as follows:—

1. To meet the increased cost of the training, supply, and supervision of nurses—£3,500.
2. To meet the reduction of the fees to be received from the Associations (in order to enable them to increase the salaries of their nurses)—£1,500.
3. To be added to the Queen's Nurses' Benefit Fund, the income of which is applied to the personal benefit of the nurses—£2,000.

These three sums amount to £7,000, and the Institute was asking the Queen's Fund to raise this extra £7,000 per annum for at least three years, not at present intending to guarantee the future beyond that date, as it was thought that the nursing arrangements of the country would undergo great and radical changes during that period.

It was decided to make every effort to raise the fund of £7,000 a year for the next three years.

District Nursing will no doubt in the future be classed as Public Health Nursing, and will be organized by the Health Ministry, and not be dependent on charity, which so far has resulted in a graduated system of almost sweated conditions for the nurses, whose ill-paid labour has made the care of the poor in their own homes possible. For the future this tax must not fall upon the worker, and managers be permitted to offer charity on the cheap.

The effects which the establishment of the Ministry of Health will have upon voluntary effort on behalf of the sick and poor were discussed at the annual meeting of the Scarborough and District Nursing Association, and the advent of the national body was not viewed with whole-hearted approval.

Miss Amy Hughes, late Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, warned nurses and workers that there were difficult times ahead for nursing associations throughout the country, and said that under the Ministry of Health they must all be prepared for changes. She pleaded that the new proposals of the Government should be approached in a spirit of conciliation, "because," she proceeded, "the work of the nurses has not been thoroughly understood nor thoroughly grasped by official people, and unless we are prepared to alter a little, we shall simply be crowded out, and the Government will be inclined to put in people without half their practical experience, and without that sympathy, that tact, that knowledge, and that love of the people which characterises good district nurses."

Unless committees and nurses were willing, she added, to adapt themselves to the new conditions, it would do harm to the national welfare rather than good to have the Ministry of Health established; but if they adopted a conciliatory attitude, the district nurses would be able to save a great deal of the invasion of the home life of mothers, whom they ought to encourage to respect it.

"Southwold," St. Lawrence, the beautiful Isle of Wight home of Lady Madden, has been kindly placed at the service of the nursing staff of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption at Ventnor, pending the erection of a permanent home, for which funds are now being solicited. The loan of "Southwold" will

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