

### NURSING ECHOES.

We have had several letters this week asking us to open a Bureau, so that through the International Council of Nurses arrangements may be made for emigration should the College of Nursing Registration Bill be thrust upon the "free" nurses in this country—as they are determined not to be made subject for life to the control of the lay-governed Training Schools, which have not the shadow of a right to control them.

We shall be pleased to help later on, should such injustice disgrace the legislation of this country—but we have no fear of it. If the nurses show spirit enough they will defeat this huge job.

A scheme for a 56-hour working week for nurses has been approved by the Board of Management at the South London Hospital for Women. When the nursing staff is at full strength, every member will have one whole day off duty in seven. Night nurses will be given four nights off duty a month, and one and a half hour's rest away from the wards during the night. The salaries of the nursing staff have been raised during the past year.

Miss Flower, R.R.C., who was Sister at the Middlesex Hospital, and joined up on August 8th, 1914, as a Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., and sailed with the first contingent to France, has deserved well of her country. She has served in hospitals of many kinds, ambulance trains, and canal boats, but mostly in charge of casualty clearing stations at the very front—a kind of service which no woman was allowed to take prior to this war. Bombardments and bombing raids by day and night have been her frequent experiences, with many ghastly casualties and hairbreadth escapes. Miss Flower came through without personal injury, although her tent and clothing have been riddled. Her term of service has been four years and nine months, during which she has had eight weeks' leave. Since the Armistice she has been Matron in charge of a large hospital at Wimereux.

We hear of a thousand nurses out of work now they have been demobilised, but apparently institutions are experiencing great difficulty in procuring them. The nurses wish to maintain in civil life a higher standard of remuneration and shorter hours of work. Many want an eight-hour day and a half-

holiday a week. They are determined, if possible, to continue to enjoy "a little life," as they have done during the war.

We fear that unless trained nurses unite on a free basis, and cease to be content to be "done for" and often "done brown," better conditions will not come their way. They must do as others have done who have risen out of the pit—work out their own salvation.

The Nurses' Demobilisation and Resettlement Department of the Ministry of Labour wish it known that there are some hundreds of nurses back from active service who require work, and the opinion is expressed that it is a public duty to give employment to these devoted women, who have deserved so well of their country. Those requiring nurses in England and Wales can apply to 16, Curzon Street, Mayfair, W. 1; and those in Scotland to 112, George Street, Edinburgh. We hear of great shortage of nurses in various branches of work, but those requiring it are not always suitable, and others prefer to wait to get what they want.

We are asked to state that the Secretary of the Royal South Hants Nurses' League will be obliged if all members of the League will send her their present addresses and subscriptions, addressed to the Secretary of the Nurses' League, Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton.

*The Lancet*, referring to the "ragging case" at the Bermondsey Infirmary, says: "The case will no doubt receive further attention from the Bermondsey Guardians. The charge made by the defendants against the complainant was a serious one, much more serious than their method of either (1) revenging themselves for injustice done them, or (2) taking steps to deter the complainant from carrying out her duty. The actual ducking, followed by the carrying of the matter into a police-court, gives an impression of young women aping the manners and practices of young men, and forgetting that the victim of their exuberance may not adopt a masculine point of view so readily as themselves. 'Ragging,' moreover, is no longer held to play an important and useful part in forming the manners of our public schools, universities, and military and naval services, while the organised assault of one person by many is always an act of cowardice. We hope that the Bermondsey guardians will take a serious view of the conduct of the 'raggers.'"

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