

NURSING ECHOES.

Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, is making a great effort to enable the Board of the Middlesex Hospital to provide a suitable Nurses' Home—the King's Hospital Fund having drawn the attention of the authorities to the urgency of the need—and recently visited the hospital to promote this object. It is hoped to raise £50,000, and to provide a separate bedroom for each of the 30 Sisters and 170 Nurses.

We are always glad to hear of gifts to district nursing associations, and note with pleasure that Mr. Peter M'Phail, Craigmillar Park, Edinburgh, has given £2,000 to Kenmore District Nursing Association as a nurse endowment fund, in memory of his son, Captain Stewart M'Phail, who recently died from pneumonia at Winchester.

A Nursing Association is being formed in Bexhill to organize the district nursing on a wider basis than that which has been carried out through the St. Barnabas and St. Paul Nursing Associations. It is proposed to affiliate the new association with Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and the East Sussex County Nursing Association, and to undertake the nursing and health work contemplated by the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918, and thus reap the benefit of a Treasury grant. A committee has been formed representative of nearly every public body in the town.

We learn that Miss Lückes, of the London Hospital, has been seriously ill for some time, and unfit for duty, but naturally, after her long term of office, she prefers not to resign.

Since her attack on the College of Nursing, Ltd., Miss Lückes, like lesser mortals, has had to run the gauntlet of its influential supporters, who are determined, now they have got Charing Cross Hospital in tow, to include the London as supporting their particular form of State Registration for nurses.

As this policy practically provides for the control of the Nursing Profession by the lay committees of the Training Schools, through their salaried officials, the Matrons and Secretaries, and the Hon. Medical Staffs, there appears no valid reason for the London to stand out; its nurses would have no more freedom of action than they have at present. The College Council made a special class in which to

register them as two years' certificated nurses, and thus supported the indefensible system of exploitation as private nurses after two years only in the wards. How about the democratic constitution of the College one hears so much about? Anyway, London Hospital nurses have nothing to thank it for. We wonder what will happen when the members of the "private staffs" utilised for profit by the large training schools like the "London" and the Royal Infirmarys of Manchester and Liverpool are represented on the College Council, as they ought to be, and venture to move that "profiteering" by their hospital Committees be put an end to. How will the Matrons vote? In support of sweating, as they have done in the past, or in support of just conditions for the nurses? We hope reporters will be admitted if ever such live questions are on the tapis!

A RECORD OF CONTINUED SUCCESS.

Sir Jesse Boot presided over the twenty-sixth ordinary general meeting of Boots' Cash Chemists (Eastern), Ltd., at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, last week, when a most interesting report was presented showing a strikingly successful and useful year's work.

The chairman paid a warm tribute to the work of the late Col. E. F. Harrison, Controller of the Chemical Welfare Department. The war work performed by the parent company—Boots' Pure Drug Co., Ltd., was, he said, a class of work which, by God's grace, they would never again be called upon to undertake, but he was proud of the help they had been able to give the medical man and the pharmacist.

But for the knowledge and skill of Colonel Harrison and his unremitting devotion to duty, the courage and mettle of our youth might have been in vain when the inhuman use of poison gas was made. Colonel Harrison visited their establishment at Nottingham, and its resources and assistance were freely placed at his service. He collaborated with the research staff. Science was pitted against diabolism, and science won. The box respirator, furnished with the chemical product which was the result of their research, was completely successful in beating the poison gases.

During the last nine months of the war, the work of filling the respirators was carried on at cost price, without a penny of profit. He knew the shareholders would commend this and be gratified at the handsome letter of acknowledgement they had received from the Chemical Welfare Department. Warm testimony was paid to the value of Lady Boot's work for the company, and as a member of the Board of Directors.

It has been decided at the British Home and Hospital for Incurables, Streatham, S.W., to adopt an eight-hour day for the nurses.

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