

NURSING ECHOES.

The people of Brussels are not unmindful of their debts. Within an incredibly short time of the signing of the Armistice a statue of Edith Cavell, reproduced on page 83, was unveiled to beautify the city, and to recall how an English nurse lived to serve its people, and died unafraid to pay the penalty of that service.

Her Royal Highness Princess Arthur of Connaught writes to the Editor:—"Thank you very much for your letter and the enclosed postal order for 5s. I am very glad to think that you consider my paper worthy of the Prize."

The announcement that Her Royal Highness Princess Arthur of Connaught had won the prize last week for her paper on Eclampsia was widely circulated throughout the press, and we note that the only London paper which published this exclusive news without mentioning THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, whose property it is, was the *Daily Mail*. No wonder the Northcliffe Press is in such a flourishing condition if it conducts its business on these predatory principles.

Quite a number of trained nurses are coming reluctantly to the conclusion that the only remedy for the economic wrongs under which they suffer, and which they have tried constitutionally to rectify for the last thirty years, is the formation of a Trades Union of Trained Nurses, as at present the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., is a Trades Union of hospital officials. Anyway, mental nurses, a large number of whom have formed themselves into the National Asylum Workers' Union, have defined a National Programme for the improvement of their condition, which was submitted recently, amongst other institutions, to the County Asylum Visiting Committee at Bodmin.

This programme, submitted by the National Asylum Workers' Union for the consideration of the Committee, included a stipulated working week of 48 hours for all asylum workers, with payment of time and a half for overtime; a minimum wage (with weekly payments and a weekly contract of service) of £2 per week, with a national war bonus of 25s. per week, both for men and women; equal pay for equal work, where women perform similar duties to men; abolition of the emolument system; all wages to be paid in cash; the institution of

wages boards or conciliation boards; official recognition of the Union by all asylum authorities; State registration of mental nurses; the furtherance of local and national Labour representation; and considerable amendment of the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act, 1909.

Mr. H. Hodge wanted to know where the Asylum Committee came in after acceding to that request. He thought they had better retire and let these people work the Asylum.

Mr. Hore said the Finance Committee recommended that they give the matter serious consideration.

After discussion, the recommendation of the Finance Committee that a reply be sent stating that the matter would receive careful consideration was approved.

The committee of the Bridgwater District Nursing Association have received a legacy of nearly £500, thanks to which, it was announced at the annual meeting last week, the finances are in a satisfactory state.

It is not often that nurses receive compliments in the press, but Mrs. Stanley Wrench, discussing in *Tit-Bits* "Do Nurses make good Wives?" has many pleasant things to say about them. For instance:—"Well-known features like those of Florence Nightingale or that martyr of our own time, Nurse Cavell, illustrate how the work of tending the sick and suffering gives tenderness and sweetness to the face as well as real nobility of character. Rarely, indeed, does one see the face of a woman in the nursing profession who could be called plain-featured. Beautiful she may not be, but there is a certain something which makes one desire to look at her again."

The writer concludes:—"If I were looking for a good wife, and could have my choice, I certainly would marry a nurse."

Sir Arthur Newsholme, who presided at a lecture on "Lessons of the Influenza Epidemic," given by Captain Thomas Carnwath, D.S.O., M.B., at the Royal Institute of Public Health last week, said that work on a much larger scale for many decades might be necessary before we could hope for immunity against catarrhal affections. Further, we could not hope for much success till everyone took elementary precautions not to spread disease. There were men and women who did not hesitate to sneeze in one's face in public conveyances. In time, he believed, people would make more use of face masks of a modified kind during epidemics. Every doctor, nurse,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)