

NURSING ECHOES.

We hear that the Nursing Department of the London Hospital has been considerably modernised during the past few months. We hope the improvements include a three-years' term of training in the wards, instead of two, before certification, and the inclusion of the co-operative system in the Private Nursing Department. These are fundamental principles in just conditions in these days.

As reported recently in this Journal, St. John's House Private Nurses' Institute, Queen Square, has been handed over to the Governors of St. Thomas' Hospital. For the future, we learn, it will bear the dual saintly title of "St. John's and St. Thomas's House," thus St. Thomas's Hospital comes into line with all the larger general hospitals in London and the country, by running a private nursing institution. Almost all these hospitals make very handsome profits out of the nurses' fees. This, we are informed, is not the aim of the managers of St. Thomas's Hospital.

Truth has done good service in persistently drawing attention to the lack of consideration by the Admiralty of our Royal Naval Sisters, and remarks in its last issue:—

"The protests which have been made against the consistent official neglect of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service have not been entirely fruitless. The Admiralty have decided that members of this class are entitled to war gratuity. That there should ever have been any demur upon this point is astonishing, but coming as it does in the middle of the sudden zest for economy, this concession indicates a belated consciousness of shabbiness. The minimum grant is £45 for a head sister and £40 for a nursing sister, and there is a small additional allowance for service in a hospital ship or overseas."

To celebrate the signing of Peace the authorities of Kensington Infirmary arranged two dances for the staff and their friends, which were recently held in the Kensington Town Hall. The guests were received by Miss Alsop, Dr. Remington Hobbs, and the Rev. A. Lombardini. A large number were present both evenings, and the dancing was thoroughly enjoyed.

On Friday, September 26th, the Kensingtonians will hold their Annual Reunion. The

medals and awards will be presented by Lady Fleming. All nurses who have been trained at Kensington will be welcome. There will be a service in the Church of St. Elizabeth at 3.30 p.m., followed by a reception, and Miss Alsop hopes that all her visitors will make arrangements to stay as long as possible.

The harvest thanksgiving service will be held on Sunday, September 28th, in the Church of St. Elizabeth, at 4 p.m. The sermon will be preached by the Chaplain of St. Thomas' Hospital. The Rev. A. Lombardini will welcome friends to this service.

The Southwark Guardians have adopted the following report of the Medical Superintendent of the Infirmary as to hours on and off duty for the Nursing Staff:—

Suggested hours: 7.30 a.m.—7.30 p.m.; 1½ hours for meals.

Leave: two hours off duty; one whole day a week; half-day on alternate Sundays.

Night duty: two nights off-duty weekly.

The serious shortage of probationer nurses in Poor Law infirmaries and many hospitals is still acute, and it is not only a difficulty of numbers, but of suitability. The girl of the period is not seriously humanitarian; the excitement and glamour of nursing men in war is quite a different thing from devoting one's life to the care of men, women and children suffering from the average ailments to which flesh is supposed to be heir. We have enquired from quite a number of nice V.A.D.'s and others we know: "Are you going to train seriously as a nurse—the sick poor need you?" to be met with the reply: "No, I am not. To be frank, I do not care for sick people, and the drudgery and restrictions and injustice to which one is expected to submit in hospitals does not appeal to me. I could not face three or four years of it. I can be a supervisor in many other directions with quite a short training."

It appears to us the Ministry of Health must hurry up and eradicate disease, as nursing is apparently so distasteful to the girl of the period. The lack of rank and status, and the attitude of patronage inculcated by the College of Nursing, Ltd., and the Nation's Fund for Nurses, is also acting as a deterrent to spirited girls who object to the "poor nurse" attitude of the well-to-do.

The new regulations in force in many Asylums are apparently causing untold disor-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)