

### NURSING ECHOES.

We have before us the Forty-fourth Annual Report, for the year 1918, of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund (for disabled nurses), of which Princess Christian is President, and which conducts its beneficent work with feeling and privacy. The statement of accounts reports that £165 16s. 11d. was received in subscriptions, £116 14s. in donations; in addition to this £828 12s. 2d. was contributed by the staffs of the Naval and Military Hospitals towards the Queen Alexandra War Memorial Annuities, and £304 4s. 6d. for Princess Christian's Annuity for an Aged Nurse. £750 15s. was granted in annuities during the year.

At a meeting held in June, 1918, it was decided to affiliate the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund and the Benevolent Fund of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and to form a Joint Committee to manage these Funds, under the chairmanship of Mr. Montague W. Price, D.L. Miss Isabel Maconald was appointed Hon. Secretary to the Fund.

The Report states: "Although the Fund makes steady progress, there is still a great need for increasing its capital in order that many very pressing claims may be met." Very sincere thanks are accorded to Miss Garrioch, R.R.C., to Miss McCarthy, R.R.C., and to Mr. Montague Price, for promoting the usefulness of the Fund, which has upwards of £20,000 invested.

At the request of Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C., the amount collected by the Territorial Force Nursing Service was returned, it being stated that the Service wished to administer it. This evidence of personal feeling is to be regretted, as the generous support of the Fund by the Imperial Military Nursing Service, reported last week, is splendid evidence of the sympathy and comradeship of this Service towards those members who need help, and proves that with good organisation and a little self-sacrifice, which is available through the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund, the nursing profession can look after its own needy members, and thus maintain its self-respect and the respect of the community.

We congratulate those responsible for the Fund on its present happy position.

The Ministry of Health is wisely beginning to take an active interest in Poor Law Nursing, now under its authority, and we note that it has advised the Mile End Guardians that £25, instead of £30, is a fair minimum salary for

probationers, with everything found. We agree, if the Nursing School attached provides a thorough theoretical and practical professional education. When certificated, the salary may well be doubled. The Mile End Guardians, at a recent meeting, deeply resented the interference of the Ministry of Health, and although nine candidates were content to accept £25 instead of the £30 advertised, the Board resolved, in spite of sensible advice from the Chair, to adhere to its original decision.

This is all very lordly and large, but the huge increase of expense will not be met by voluntary subscriptions, but will come out of the pocket of the poor rate-payer, whose burdens, owing to municipal extravagance, already amount to a crushing weight.

On this question of probationers' salaries, the Special Committee of the National Council of Women advise that probationers shall be recognised as nurse-students, and not as salaried officers, and that any money paid to them should be taken as a grant in aid of their training, and in no sense as a salary. Several Poor Law Matrons, at the final conference on the Report now issued, pleaded that the grant should not be more than £20, as the higher rate of pay encouraged a very ill-educated class of candidate to apply for training, a class not sufficiently cultured to enter as a nurse-student.

The Westminster Guardians have congratulated Miss Florence Nightingale, the Assistant Matron, on the award to her of the Royal Red Cross, for services in the war. It seems peculiarly appropriate that a lady of this honoured name should receive this decoration.

Sir Berkeley Moynihan, Member of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., speaking of combating tuberculosis, measles, and other preventable diseases, remarked recently: "We have got to start now in real earnest against all these forms of disabling diseases, and it seems to me that this is one of the great avenues opening out for V.A.D.'s. After the splendid work they have done, it seems to me that there is a great deal of equally good work to be done in future. During the last five years the V.A.D.'s have ranged themselves on the side of the best heroes in the greatest cause for which men ever fought, and it is my great hope that they will continue to range themselves on the side of those who are fighting the pestilences which lurk in every corner."

But why do members of the College Council,

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