

NURSING ECHOES.

Members of the Matrons' Council are asked to keep Friday, October 31st, free for their quarterly meeting, which will be held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1, at 3 p.m.

The Committee of Queen Mary's Hostels for Nurses announce that, after November 30th, the last remaining of the three original Queen Mary's Hostels—namely, the one-night Hostel at 50, Warwick Square—will be closed. The only Hostel then remaining will be the permanent one at 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, where, within the limit of its capacity, nurses on holiday or leave will still be received. Applications should be made to the Superintendent at that address.

The *Times*, commenting on the work of Women Police in London, during September, states that many of these officials are fully trained nurses. We can obtain no evidence in support of this statement. Does it refer to the ubiquitous V.A.D.?

Miss Eleanor Jones (Sister Darker), and Miss E. Bryan (Sister Kenton), have retired from active service at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and will be greatly missed both by the medical staff and their fellow nurses. Miss Jones has remained in the service of the hospital twenty-eight years.

Miss Bryan, who before the war was Sister-in-Charge of the paying probationers' Home at King Square, then returned to active duty as Sister of Kenton Ward, and did her bit splendidly for four and a half years, retiring when the soldiers' wards were closed. In these days women are seldom content to serve one institution for half a life-time. We live in more strenuous times.

Four out of six of the Public Health Committee of the Herne Bay Urban District Council, including the chairman, have resigned their membership of that Committee, as the Council have not accepted their recommendations that the salary of the Matron at the Isolation Hospital shall be increased from £50 to £75 per annum. On the first occasion the recommendation was referred back, and at a recent meeting of the Council, Councillor Cursons, who was present, asked that a letter from him to the Clerk might be read. From this it appeared that the question was thoroughly re-considered, and all the members of the Committee present, having regard to the excellent

work of the Matron (Miss James), her long years of service, and devotion to duty, and the economical way in which she runs the hospital, decided to report that they could not see their way to alter the conclusion arrived at. When the matter again came before the Council the minute was expunged from the Committee's report, but the Council subsequently agreed to increase the Matron's salary to £65 per annum.

An interesting feature in the controversy is that Councillor Cursons pointed out that he "feels strong action is necessary, as this deals with a woman in the service of the Council—a faithful worker unable to plead her cause, through not being a member of a 'Union'—leaving herself in the hands of the Council; so entirely different to the action of some men, who, unless their demands are conceded, adopt the down-tools policy." He added that Miss James would receive no pension, and must put by for her old age. As a public man he was determined to uphold the dignity of the nursing profession and to do his best to see that its members are properly paid.

The matter was adjourned to the next meeting. We need more Councillors of the calibre of Councillor Cursons.

The Southwark Guardians, at their last meeting, had before them a recommendation of the Infirmary Visiting Committee that the nursing staff and other officers at the Infirmary be paid overtime for all hours worked over the forty-eight hours per week, pending the carrying into effect of the scheme for reduction of working hours, recently adopted by the Guardians. The Committee pointed out that some difficulty was being experienced in securing the requisite number of nurses.

The Guardians also received a communication from the National Union of Corporation Workers urging them to pay their members on the Board's staff for all hours worked in excess of the forty-eight hours per week as from the 1st July last.

After discussion, the Guardians referred the matter to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to consider the question of the payment for such overtime to the staffs of all their institutions.

The *Canadian Nurse* reports that the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses resolved at its Annual Meeting: "That the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses stands as approving the principle of training attendants, provided the public is properly safeguarded."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)