

### NURSING ECHOES.

Sir William James Thomas, the millionaire coalowner and philanthropist, is giving 1,000 guineas to Cardiff Hospital as a thank-offering for the birth of a son. Sir William married in April, 1917, Miss Maud Cooper, of Bexhill-on-Sea, who was assistant matron at Cardiff Hospital, of which he was a generous benefactor.

"Birthday Week" at the Imperial Nurses' Club, 137, Ebury Street, S.W.1, was such a success last year that it has evidently come to stay, and this year it will be observed from Monday, 24th inst., to Sunday, 30th inst., inclusive. An invitation has been issued to the Matrons of the larger London hospitals to meet the Vice-Presidents, and to see the Club, to which many members of their staffs belong, on the 24th, and on Friday, the 28th, at 3.30, there will be a general meeting of members, when a report will be presented. On Sunday, the 30th, there will be special speakers, as well as music, and each day there will be songs, recitations and music in the morning from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and in the afternoon from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Club will keep open house for the members, but their guests will be charged sixpence each for light refreshments. It is hoped to have a small exhibition of war souvenirs and curios, brought by members from abroad.

It is foolish of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to show its fears of a Nurses' Trade Union so openly. The type of nurse who is satisfied to be "done for," and organised as a war charity promoted and advocated by actresses, as College members are, are not the upstanding, independent type of women who would join a Trade Union. There is room for both. These remarks are called forth by the circular letter just sent, signed by Sir Arthur Stanley, as Chairman of the College, to the nurse members, in which he informs them that: "The College is not encouraging the formation of a Trade Union." He then proceeds to enumerate eleven benefits bestowed upon the nurses through the College, and if ten have no more foundation than the claim stated in No. 6, they do not amount to a row of pins.

It will hardly be believed that the College, after wrecking the Nurses' Registration Bill last summer, has the audacity to claim entire credit for procuring this great reform for the Nursing Profession. It claims, in Clause 6: "Striking success has been achieved in connection with State Registration of Nurses, the

College having, within its first four years of existence, secured a pledge from the Government that they will bring in and pass a State Registration Bill without delay." The College tactics of attempting to "steal the thunder" of the pioneers of nursing reform—its unblushing plagiarism in every direction—has inspired widespread disgust and distrust in the minds of honourable people. This inexcusable attitude may delude ignorant nurses, but it will only stiffen the backs of those who know the truth.

It is the irony of illogical argument that this College letter should end: "Noisy opposition and unscrupulous attacks are best met by the quiet dignity of silence!" Why, then, waste sixteen thousand stamps and envelopes in breaking silence? Or like the immortal Irish bull—is silence, like "reciprocity," to be "all on one side?"

The Minister of Health came forward in the House of Commons on June 27th, well knowing the justifiable indignation of the nurses, when the College representatives by their unworthy tactics obstructed the Central Committee's Bill, and gave a pledge that justice should be done by the Government bringing in at the earliest possible moment a Nurses' Registration Bill. For this generous action it is Dr. Addison, and not the College advisors, who deserves the gratitude and support of the nurses.

After all the talk heard eighteen months ago about the number of women who were likely to train as aviators, it is odd, says the *Manchester Guardian*, to hear that since the Armistice only one woman in this country has qualified for a pilot's certificate. This enterprising woman is an Australian nurse with a record of three years' hospital work in a Cairo military hospital.

After her demobilisation Miss McMaugh, like a good many other Australian nurses, took a full training as chauffeur. Then she became ambitious to fly, and after a month's intensive training she passed the test for her pilot's certificate and indulged herself in the great pleasure of looping the loop. The training cost well over £100, and Miss McMaugh says it was worth it.

She learned on a dual-control machine, and always enjoyed her flights immensely, though at first she felt she would never be able to master the levers. Then suddenly she found it was quite easy, and the thing became intensely fascinating. Miss McMaugh sees no reason at all why women should not take up aviation as a career.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)