

NURSING ECHOES.

The Establishment Committee of the London County Council have reported that they have had before them a petition from the school nursing staff of the Public Health Department for increased remuneration, by reason of (1) their pre-war scales of salaries being insufficient for the provision of a reasonable degree of comfort and maintenance of their proper professional status, and (2) the continued rise in the cost of living.

The Committee recommend the adoption of the following scale of salaries, and the institution of an upper grade of nurses, to be designated "School Nursing Sisters" :—

School Nurses.—Salary from £157 to £181, including laundry allowance, also uniform, valued at £10.

School Nursing Sisters.—Salary from £181 to £205.

Assistant Superintendents.—Salary from £207 to £244 10s., with uniform valued at £10 per annum in each case.

A rise for temporary school nurses is also recommended.

The ultimate extra cost is estimated at about £5,750 per annum.

Appended to these highly satisfactory recommendations of the Establishment Committee is a statement that the Finance Committee have considered in its financial bearings the above estimate, submit the same as chargeable to maintenance account. But the Finance Committee submitted the following report :—

We are informed that the whole of the nursing staff concerned has received three years' training, and it appears to us that, in view of the increasing cost of the nursing service, the question of the employment of probationers at a lower rate of pay should be thoroughly considered. . . . We think that the question of the employment of a substantial proportion of probationers or partly trained persons on the nursing staff should be fully considered. . . . We submit the present estimate on the understanding that this question will be considered without delay.

Should any such retrograde course be adopted the school nurses have the remedy in their own hands.

Miss Hoadley, Lady Superintendent of the Nurses' Co-operation, and Miss Hollely, Sister-in-Charge of the Howard de Walden Home, were "At Home" at 35, Langham Street, Portland Place, W., on Friday, December 5th, when the work and gifts of the members of the

Needlework Guild were exhibited. Some six hundred articles, which would gladden the heart of any Matron or Ward Sister, were on view. They included warm nightdresses, petticoats, flannel petticoats, woolly scarves, felt slippers, socks, bed socks, shirts, dressing jackets, handkerchiefs, a delectable knitted crimson sweater, a blue serge kilted skirt and white blouse for a little girl, warm petticoats on unbleached bodices, warm little stays, and a host of desirable things for the tinies, including dainty frocks, woolly jackets, and soft warm knitted vests. Tea was served in the restaurant, which is such a feature of the Club, and many old friends met and enjoyed an exchange of experiences. As soon as the guests had left the articles were apportioned and despatched to the hospitals selected.

A question causing great anxiety to many Matrons in these days of shortage of probationers, is how to secure the proper cleanliness and care of the wards, as well as the care of the patients.

Miss Dowbiggin, R.R.C., of the Edmonton Infirmary, is just now experimenting on lines which promise to be a success, in employing a number of ward orderlies. She finds that a proportion of the girls who apply to be taken on as probationers are not suited to train as nurses, but that, at the same time, they are vigorous, healthy, young women, desirous of working in a hospital. Suitable applicants are, therefore, engaged as ward orderlies, with the result that, the ward work being their "job," they take a pride in it, instead of regarding it as something that must be got through as a condition of training. A certain number of the wards have no orderlies, in order that the probationers may learn to be proficient in ward duties.

We hear from several large training schools that V.A.D.s who have been admitted for a three years' term of training, find the work too hard, and are not fulfilling their contracts. Most of these girls have begun at the wrong end of the stick, and after enjoying in military hospitals the performance of duties in ward and theatre which in the training schools are reserved to the staff nurses and sisters, it is hard to submit to drudgery, tuition, and discipline.

A correspondent of the *Record* who has been visiting Brussels with the British Chaplain who was with Miss Cavell in her last moments, asked the Rev. S. H. T. Gahan to enable him to see the spot where she laid down

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