

## NURSING ECHOES.

It is very difficult in these days of costly production for a weekly nurses' paper to deal at length with every section of nursing, so that Queen's Nurses are happy to have their own monthly magazine, which gives special information of interest to them. The Editorial this month congratulates the "party of progress" on the passing of the Nurses' Acts, after the long fight, and advises nurses "to register early and do their level best to make the Act successful to the fullest possible extent." It remarks that "members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., will presumably register through their centres, and we hear that their fee to the College, if already paid, will, on their admission to the State Register, be returned to them."

We see no reason for any nurse to place her name on the State Register through any intermediary. Each nurse will be required to make her own application for State Registration to the General Nursing Council, and the sooner she begins to do her own business the better. State Registration means that the principle of self-government has been granted, and it is much to be hoped that government by deputy will now cease. Nurses have, for the future, to think, speak and act for themselves. Leading strings should be snipped without further ado.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, the Registration organ, intends to keep the profession well informed concerning the "progress of State Registration" in the future, as it has in the past, and by way of getting ready we advise nurses to get a copy of their birth certificate, as it will certainly be required by the General Nursing Council.

We are glad to note that the *Daily News* has devoted much space recently to the conditions of nursing and the trained nurse, and, after investigation, comes to the conclusion that "the only prospect at present of establishing the nursing profession on a proper professional footing lies in the Council which is shortly to be set up by the Ministry of Health." That is the opinion the *B.J.N.* has been expressing and pushing for thirty years. Now we have won it we must make use of our Statutory Council.

In a report to the *Medway Guardians*, the Nursing Committee recently reported that Mr. Snowden, General Inspector, and Dr. Fuller, Medical Inspector of the Ministry of Health, had attended a meeting of the Committee and

explained the requirements of the Ministry of Health with regard to Poor-Law Infirmaries throughout the country, as follows:—

"That where there is an institution with a Resident Medical Officer and a nursing staff, that institution should be thoroughly and properly staffed; that all institutions of 200 beds or over should appoint a Visiting Medical Officer, a Visiting Surgical Officer, and a Visiting Children's Diseases Officer.

"That the proportion of patients to nurses shall not be more than six to one, both in the case of night and day nurses.

"That in infirm wards the proportion of patients and nurses shall not be more than nine to one.

"Every institution should train as many probationers as they can.

"That the eight hours a day system should be applied as far as the nursing staff is concerned.

"That where there are 200 beds for sick or over, an Assistant Resident Medical Officer should be appointed.

"That board wages are allowed to nurses when on holiday.

"That if possible arrangements should be made for the probationers to receive surgical and midwifery training."

Following the presentation of this report, Mrs. Hitches observed that the foregoing were not orders, but suggestions that the Board should consider, and she proposed that they be referred to the Nursing Committee. This was adopted.

Miss Bertha Cave, who for a number of years has been the proprietor and Superintendent of the Kensington Gardens Nurses' Club, 56 and 57, Kensington Gardens Square, Bayswater, W., has disposed of the business to Miss Margaret Theresa Hurst, to whom we cordially wish a prosperous future. We hope that before engaging in new work Miss Cave will take the rest she has so well earned. Nurses resident there have always been sure that their telephone messages will be received and delivered with courtesy and promptness, a most important consideration in the case of private nurses. The close attention entailed, in addition to the heavy responsibility of running a Club in war time, is of a nerve-racking quality, and we wish Miss Cave a spell of quiet and refreshment outside the radius of any telephone service.

Countess Frances Wrenzel Wratislaw, of British birth, widow of Count Wratislaw, left to her nurse, Miss Nana Campbell, her bulldog, a French clock with pendulum set with

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)