

NURSING ECHOES.

As it was realised that Members of the Royal British Nurses Association would, with our other readers, desire a full report of the General Meeting attended by the Minister of Health on January 8th, to save space the R.B.N.A. Supplement will appear next week instead of in the present issue.

Disabled nurses who are not able to continue nursing in consequence of their war service are to be given free training in other occupations by the Ministry of Labour.

About 1,000 nurses are receiving pensions because of disablement in the war. Only one or two have lost limbs, but others are suffering from malaria, tuberculosis contracted through exposure, and heart trouble, the result of over-strain. There are many with nervous troubles also.

The training will be offered according to their previous experience. The courses arranged by the Training Section include: Dispensing, X-ray work, medical electricity, public health and infant welfare, institutional house-keeping, embroidery. The nurses will be required to have a certificate from the medical offices of the Ministry of Pensions that they are fit to follow the occupation chosen. No training will be given for any work in which there is not a reasonable chance of employment.

Only pensioned nurses will be accepted. The maximum time for training will be twelve months.

Disabled nurses should apply to the Controller, Women's Training Branch, Ministry of Labour, St. Ermin's Hotel, Westminster, S.W.1. Letters should be marked "Disabled Nurses."

The Church Army has inaugurated "The Guild for the Shell-Shocked," for the furtherance of the Society's work for ex-Service suffering men. Such cases require the most expert and patient treatment, and deserve all the tender care available.

A Concert and Variety Entertainment is being held on the 12th of February, in the Hall of the Northern Polytechnic, in aid of the Nurses' Home appeal of the Great Northern Hospital Progress Fund. In these days it is almost impossible to maintain a satisfactory nursing staff at any hospital unless a comfortable residence is attached for the nurses. Moreover, the Nurses' Home is the Nurses' School, and facilities in these progressive times must

be arranged for teaching and study. Now the Nursing Acts are to be put in force, Nursing Education must be sound and efficient. Rule of thumb will not suffice in the future.

Princess Helena Victoria, President of the League of the Roses, has kindly consented to distribute badges to members at the Great Northern Central Hospital, on Thursday, 12th February.

It is hoped that the new Nurses' Club in Edinburgh will soon be opened. Mrs. David Wallace has been appointed Secretary of the Appeal Committee. We wish it the success attained by a similar institution in Glasgow.

We nope when "Registration" does not require so much of our space to have something to say on Private Nursing. From information at our disposal there is a crying need for further home comforts for private nurses in London. At the present cost of administration it is a very difficult question to solve, but the fact remains that if highly trained and refined private nurses are to be available, who are not a sweated class, in London, more home life between cases must be provided. What can be worse than that overstrained and hopeless women should enter private houses to cope with stress and difficulties? Well-managed Nurses' Residential Clubs are a very real need, and we hope the R.B.N.A. will succeed in its earnest endeavour to organize one. If nurses were willing to help themselves it would be a good beginning.

We note that in several districts a fund is to be opened for the establishment of a Nursing Service as a War Memorial—"on broad and comprehensive lines."

The Committee of the Stretford Division of the British Red Cross Society have offered the sum of £6,000 for this purpose. It is hoped by the nursing service to make it possible for every resident, in the event of sickness in the household, to have the help of qualified nurses. To those in needy circumstances it is desired that the service shall be free or subject to a nominal charge only.

Care must be taken that these Red Cross schemes do not undermine the economic stability of trained nurses in private and district work in the locality, and that sufficient salaries are offered and maintained for those employed. All over the country at the present time in rural districts the village nurses' services are often claimed by well-to-do people.

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