

NURSING ECHOES.

In reply to a number of inquiries, "When shall we be able to register?" we advise nurses to possess their souls in patience for a little longer, and get birth and marriage certificates in readiness. The General Nursing Council is losing no time—indeed, it is making excellent progress, but—as we have before stated—its work is enormous, and thoroughness must be its policy.

Do not forget that the Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses is to be held at 431, Oxford Street, W., on Friday this week at 4.30 p.m.

The Annual "Camp" of the Nurses' Missionary League is to be held this year at Sandsend, on the Yorkshire coast, from June 12th to 26th. The "Camp" will not be under canvas, but will be accommodated in a large house a few minutes from the sea. The surrounding country is well wooded, and there will be opportunities for bathing, picnics and excursions. It is expected that some missionary nurses home on furlough will be present, and some of the meetings (which are always short and confined to the mornings and evenings) will be devoted to hearing about their experiences. The cost will be £1 13s. or £2 2s. a week (according to room occupied), and any nurse who has her holidays due at these dates should write for further particulars to Miss Macfee, 21, Froggnal Lane, Hampstead, London, N.W. 3.

The reports presented at the annual meeting of the Devon Nursing Association at Exeter showed that although thirteen new branch associations had affiliated during the year, bringing the total to 128, and that there had been no lapses, the work was greatly handicapped by a scarcity of village nurses. Ten nurses completed their training, and are at work in the county; but twenty-one left for various reasons—nine to be married. Eleven pupils are in training.

The hopes that V.A.D. women, relieved of war duties, would take up village nursing were not realised. Women who were keen to become nurses were more inclined to take hospital training for three years, and were then unwilling, as a rule, to settle in country districts. This scarcity of nurses made the task of Miss Bell, the Superintendent, exceedingly difficult and anxious. Thanks to the liberal assistance of the County Council, the committee reported a substantial improvement in the nurses' salaries. Every

nurse now receives a minimum of £90, rising to £120, with an allowance for uniform. The County Council was also willing to give twenty scholarships of £50 each. For lack of suitable candidates the scheme for the training of home helps was not brought into working order. The Local Government Board increased their mid-wifery grant to £655. The British Red Cross Society had made a grant of £3,000, which was invested. In spite of these grants the income was not sufficient to meet the increasing claims made upon the Association. There was a debit balance of £120 13s. 7d.

Lady Fortescue, President of the Association, said there was an almost despairing lack of candidates for training, and the finances were another cause of great anxiety, due mainly to the abnormal cost of everything.

It is most hopeful to learn that "women who are keen to become nurses" are at last realising that it takes three years' hospital training to fit them for their responsible duties. Let us hope the women who run County Nursing Associations will soon realise this fundamental truth. Also, why have motors never been at the disposal of the district nurse? With a "run about" no end of work could be got through—with the least possible fatigue and wear and tear of boots!

At a meeting held recently at the General Hospital, Birmingham, under the presidency of Miss Musson, Mrs. H. S. Richards briefly outlined her scheme to raise money for the establishment of a nurses' club in Birmingham. It has been decided to hold a large scenic fair at Bingley Hall in the spring of 1921, and it is hoped the movement will have the sympathy and support of three counties.

We hope, as the public are to find the funds, that the club will be open to all trained nurses, and that they will not compulsorily be members of the College of Nursing, Ltd. Birmingham nurses should have this point cleared up before they get their friends to support Mrs. H. S. Richards' appeal.

Sir A. Beattie, D.L., trustee, presided at the annual meeting of the King Edward Coronation Fund for Nurses, Dublin, when the fifteen members of the Council were re-elected for 1920-21. The annual report, read by Miss Boland, showed that during the year eighteen nurses in distress through sickness, accident, old age, or other cause, had been assisted by grants amounting to £119, besides the Countess of Pembroke annuity, which brought £12 7s.

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