

NURSING ECHOES.

The meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses is to be held on July 3rd. It should be a very well attended and memorable gathering, as three members of the League have been invited to take seats on the General Nursing Council—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Cox-Davies and Miss Villiers—and we hear all the other nurses on the Council are to be invited as guests of honour to the social gathering of the League in the Great Hall.

If nurses have any money to spare, or can bring influence on friends, we advise them to keep an eye on the needs of our own children, as the results of German barbarism are now being suffered by many. Few of our children have sufficient milk, woollen clothes, sound boots, or fresh air. Not one penny should be expended on the progeny of Germans, so long as our children—many of them fatherless through the war—need the necessaries to maintain a good standard of health. The Children's Country Holiday Fund has for many years done a fine bit of work, and we are pleased to note that the Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos is organising a *matinée*, in support of the Fund, to be given at the Empire Theatre on Friday this week.

The income of the Fund, which was £23,000 before the war, has dropped to about £10,000, whereas the expenses of sending children away has doubled. There are 100,000 necessitous children waiting to be sent. Full particulars and tickets can be obtained from the *Matinée* Secretary, Children's Country Holidays Fund, 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C. 2.

Nurses who handle many drugs would be wise never to taste them without a doctor's order. We have come across several sad cases of late. Fine women just becoming thoroughly demoralised through the drug habit. The story of Alice Williams, a nurse, who was charged recently at Marylebone Police Court with obtaining tubes of morphine and heroin by false pretences from a chemist, is a sad warning.

According to the evidence, this nurse obtained the drugs by presenting what appeared to be a doctor's prescription, marked "Not to be repeated." The prescription also mentioned wool, gauze and bandages, and she asked that these, instead of being given to her with the drugs, should be sent to an address in Beaumont Street. Incidentally, she mentioned that her patient was a very rich woman suffering from cancer.

The magistrate agreed to the suggestion that she should go to a home to be cured of the drug habit, and remanded the accused on her father's bail that arrangements might be made.

A meeting of the Guild of Health was held in the charming drawing room of Mr. and Mrs. Noel Buxton, 12, Rutland Gate, on Friday afternoon, the 4th instant. The Rev. Harold Anson (Chairman of the Guild) spoke to an interested audience, composed principally of Nurses, and Heads of Nursing Homes, on the subject of "Mental and Spiritual Healing." He pointed out that people with divided interests or emotions were the most liable to illness, and mentioned the "profiteer" as the most robust member of the community, as his mind was fixed on one particular business only. A further meeting is to be held in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on June 24th, at 8 p.m.

"We are strongly impressed by the evidence as to the necessity for an adequate supply of home helps, who should be tactful, domesticated women, of good character, capable of doing invalid cooking, of looking after the household, and of taking charge of the domestic arrangements of the home."

So runs a recommendation of the Welsh Consultative Council of Medical and Allied Services in Wales.

As an initial step the Council suggest that there should be twice as many home helps as there are general practitioners in any given area.

The Council think that all health institutions, including voluntary hospitals, should form part of the future public services.

The whole of this scheme, states the report, will be dependent for its efficient administration on a large systematic motor transport and telephone service. Such services would go some way to putting a patient in a rural district in no worse a position than a patient in an urban district.

The Welsh Consultative Council has, we presume, few women on it, and certainly little, if any, expert nursing opinion, or it would not so glibly refer to these rarer than rubies "domesticated women." Home helps by all means—would not the average housewife welcome these *rare aves*—but from whence are they to be procured?

We presume the Welsh Consultative Council realises that the present-day flapper seldom develops into the tactful jewel of domesticity of which they are so commendably enamoured!

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