

## NURSING ECHOES.

The Report of the Nightingale Fund for the year ending December 25th, 1919, gives some interesting details in regard to the Training School. On December 25th of the previous year there were fifty-four Probationer-Nurses (of whom twenty-two were paying Probationers) remaining in the Nightingale School, and admitted up to the same date from the Preliminary Training School (of whom sixteen were paying Probationers and twenty Free Specials), fifty-seven, total 111.

Of these seventeen resigned or were discharged as unsuitable; thirty-six completed their Probationary year, and were taken on as extra nurses to complete their training; and fifty-eight remained in the Home on December 25th, 1919 (of whom twenty-two were paying Probationers and fourteen Free Specials). Fifty completed their term of service and were awarded certificates.

In the earlier part of the year the Staff of St. Thomas' Hospital, including the Probationers in the Training School, was visited for the third time in eighteen months with an epidemic of influenza. But for this unfortunate beginning, the health of the School has been uneventful, and the cases of sickness unusually low, and Dr. Turner, in making his Report to the Committee, expresses the opinion that the standard of physique of the School as a whole is remarkably high, as compared with that of the general community.

Miss Lloyd-Still, Matron of St. Thomas' Hospital, and Superintendent of the Nightingale School for the training of Nurses, reports that classes and lectures have been continued as in previous years with little change, and the work of the Preliminary Training School has been carried on in the same lines. Sister-Tutor reports forty-nine Probationers have completed the eight months' course of Tutorial Classes during the year. All have done steady work with genuine interest, and shown a corporate spirit that has made for a good uniform standard. The final examinations in practical nursing were conducted by Miss Montgomery, Matron of the Middlesex Hospital, assisted by Miss Coode. Five of the fifty Nurses who qualified for a Nightingale certificate qualified for the Gold Medal, and the medals were awarded to the first three in order of merit. *Gold Medal*, Miss Helen Margaretta Parke; *Silver Medal*, Miss Frances Emmeline Perry; *Bronze Medal*, Miss Dorothy Irene Harris. *Matron's Book* was awarded to the fourth and

fifth candidates—Miss Emily Fowke Ingle and Miss Mary Eleanor Wynne.

Fifteen Nightingale Nurses were appointed Sisters in Charge of Wards, Theatres, &c., nine Nightingale Nurses were appointed Charge Nurses, and five Sisters resigned their posts.

The Matron places on record her thanks to the many old Nightingale Sisters and Nurses who returned in 1914, offering their services to relieve existing Sisters and Nurses for work in the Navy, Army and British Red Cross Society. Had it not been for their help the continuity of the teaching in the Wards would not have been possible. Thus Miss Lloyd-Still reports with the help of Miss Coode (Sister of the Preliminary Training School) and Miss Gullan (Sister-Tutor), who remained at their civil posts, Nightingale Probationers received the highest standard of practical and theoretical training, which under war conditions could not have been otherwise accomplished.

Sir Napier Burnett, K.B.E., M.D., writing in the *Red Cross* on "The Scarcity of Nurses," says:—"This shortage of probationer nurses is not merely a hospital problem; it is also a question of some national concern, for the great majority of the nurses trained in our hospitals in due course pass into the service of the general community, so that the diminished supply of probationer nurses in the hospitals to-day will in three years' time reveal itself in a shortage of nurses for the private household. With the comparative recent experience in this country of influenza epidemics, I suggest that, as a nation, we cannot lightly contemplate a failure in the supply of private nurses. Every medical man realises that, with a greater supply of private and district nurses, the pressure on our hospital beds might be considerably lessened.

I submit the following reasons in explanation of the present falling-off in the supply of hospital nurses, namely:—

(1) The inducements offered in other professions. For example, a woman may become a trained masseuse in about a third of the time required to qualify as a nurse, and receive about double the salary. A stenographer can earn from £150 to £200 per annum after twelve months' training.

(2) Health Visitors and the School Medical Service, and even the Medical profession itself, are now absorbing a considerable number of women who have either trained as nurses or who would have been eligible for the nursing profession.

(3) A spirit of revolt against the long hours

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