

### NURSING ECHOES.

We hope to report an interesting meeting of the General Nursing Council, which meets on Thursday, this week, in our next issue.

All the nurses' organisations, including the G.N.C., are consulting over the Hours of Employment Bill. "To be or not to be," so far as the inclusion of institution nurses are concerned, is the question of the hour.

The question of lowering the age of candidates for admittance to training schools is now on the tapis, and it is not at all improbable that in the near future it will be reduced from 23 to 19 or 20. If the curriculum defined by the General Nursing Council for the State examination includes a year's preliminary theoretical and technical instruction before probationers are admitted to the ward, they will find their practical experience much less exacting, as knowledge acquired can be put into practice then and there. Why wait to learn elementary anatomy and physiology, bandaging, splint padding, and other details, till the routine ward work and clinical nursing has to be performed? Central preliminary schools should be instituted by the Ministry of Health upon the recommendation of the General Nursing Council, where pupils might enter at 17 or 18 and be prepared for hospital training.

The Royal Chest Hospital, City Road, E.C., is doing very good work through its Tuberculosis School for Trained Nurses, and the next six weeks' course of lectures will commence on October 19th. The cost of Lectures and Examination Fees is £2 2s. Particulars can be obtained from the Matron. Special hospitals are valuable to the community, in that they perfect their treatments, which are administered by specialists. After general training, nurses are wise who concentrate on learning all they can in special branches of nursing—beginning with the feeding and care of babies.

The appeal of St. Bartholomew's Hospital in support of Queen Mary's Home for Nurses has secured so far about £100,000, but a further £100,000 is needed to carry out the purpose of the fund. Bart's nurses have waited upwards of 40 years for a suitable collegiate Home, so we rejoice to learn that the good work is to be begun at last. The cost of a room will be about £350, and several have

already been named. The Treasurer, Lord Sandhurst has agreed to the request of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses that their contributions, which amounts to upwards of £3,000, shall be allocated to a library in memory of the late Matron, Miss Isla Stewart. It is not generally known that Miss Stewart, who was in office 23 years, left some £1,500 which, at a future date will become the property of the Hospital, we believe with the proviso that it should be used for nursing educational purposes.

We learn there is a very strong feeling upon the part of many nurses, at the decision of the Committee of the Edith Cavell Homes of Rest for Nurses to invite nurses to sell flowers in support of the Homes in the streets, in uniform, on October 12th. We sympathise with their objection, and hope this proposal will be cancelled. The public charity-appeals made by the Nation's Fund for Nurses, for the College of Nursing, Ltd., has been a very serious factor in influencing well educated women not to enter the Nursing Profession.

Dr. F. Truby King, C.M.G., has been appointed by the Government of New Zealand Chief of the new Bureau of Information on Children, and henceforth he will devote his whole time to this work which he so thoroughly understands.

Already nurses who were students under Dr. Truby King in London are working as Health Visitors in Durham, Derby and Greenwich, while others are Superintendents of Welfare Centres in London and the provinces. Within a few weeks of their arrival, those working with and over these specially trained nurses, have been struck with the results, so that medical officers of health have visited the London Centre at Earl's Court. One county has given two Health Visitors "leave" to study at this Centre, and are paying half salaries meanwhile. Thus the good work spreads. The wider the area the better.

At the recent meeting of the National Poor Law Officers' Association it was announced that as the result of the elections by the Nurses' Sections Miss Elsie Stewart (West Derby) and Miss Florence Reeves (Ecclesall Bierlow) were appointed members of the Executive Committee out of the five candidates.

Mr. Percival submitted the report of the Nurses' Sub-Committee, which explained that Dr. Williams, Major Simonds and himself had

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