

## NURSING ECHOES.

By kind permission of the Chairman of the Registered Nurses' Society, a meeting of the League of St. John's House Nurses was held at 431, Oxford Street on October 21st, Miss M. Breay, President, in the chair.

It was decided to invite Sister Charlotte, C.S.P., Founder of the League, to accept the office of Hon. President.

The meeting unanimously passed a resolution respectfully urging upon the Minister of Labour the importance of including nurses in hospitals and other institutions in the Hours of Employment Bill to be considered by Parliament this Session.

The President made a Report on the subject of State Registration of Nurses which was received with much interest. She also explained that, at the present cost of printing, the publication of League News was prohibitive. Those present learnt with much regret of the deaths of Nurse E. Passant and Nurse Pearse, and expressed their good wishes for Nurse Reed, now Mrs. Palmer, on her marriage.

It was a great pleasure to the members to welcome at tea, which was served after the meeting, the Rev. E. F. Russell, for so many years chaplain of St. John's House.

For her services, Major, Superintendent Miss Julia Stimson, Army Nurse Corps, U.S.A., has received the Distinguished Service Medal and the British R.R.C.; and has, since her return to the United States of America, been Assistant Superintendent and Acting Superintendent of the Corps.

Acting upon the authority of the Court of Governors, the House Committee of Guy's Hospital have decided to raise the salaries of Probationers to £20, £25 and £30 for first, second and third year's training respectively.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Management of the South London Hospital for Women, a Resolution was passed sanctioning increases in the scale of nursing salaries, as follows:— Sisters, commencing salary £60, rising by £5 to £70; Staff Nurses (certificated), commencing salary £50, rising by £2 to £56; Probationers, first year, £24; second year, £28; third year, £32.

In the *Woman's Leader* for October 22nd, an extremely interesting article appears on "Should the College Girl Train as a Nurse?" in which the writer says in parentheses: "I

have a feeling that at this moment, if one of them is reading this, her nose is in the air and that she is emitting a sniff of disdain. But I am not frightened." She continues:—

"There are, I think, three main reasons for the reluctance of the modern girl to enter upon a three or four years' hospital course of training, namely (1) what appears to her the unnecessary severity of the discipline; (2) the scandalously poor pay and prospects; (3) the fact that she thinks most of the nurses she has met are "the limit."

It is difficult for her to conceive that there was a time, well within living memory, when to be a nurse was a great adventure; when the impulse to self-sacrifice, almost self-immolation, sent women of breeding and culture into the hospitals to endure hardness and fight tremendous prejudices in order that they might minister to broken humanity, and that the possibility of being themselves broken in the process seemed to them right and proper and "in the day's work."

The educated women who entered hospitals forty to fifty years ago certainly made no bargains inspired by self-interest, but many were not of the self-immolating type as the writer suggests, who, in mediæval days, went into convents.

It is now 43 years since we began hospital work, and we have no hesitation in stating that many of our colleagues were women of very high spirited temperament, and fine mentality, inspired certainly with a love of humanity (and animals), but also with a keen sense of public duty, and determination to place their culture and knowledge of domestic science, cleanliness and order, at the disposal of the community.

Those who knew Miss Florence Nightingale, Mrs. Wardroper, of St. Thomas', Miss Thorold, of Middlesex, Miss Burt, of Guy's, Sister Aimée and Miss Monk, of King's, Miss Beachcroft, of the London and Lincoln, Miss Catherine Wood, of Great Ormond Street, Miss Minks, of Victoria, and hundreds of other pioneers, would find it difficult to imagine that these forceful women took up nursing work because it seemed right and proper they should be broken in the process!

We smile!

The writer of the article realises what their equally virile successors—"the limit"—have accomplished in the face of the apathy of the "College girl." She asks: "What can we offer in the nursing profession?"—and enumerates the result of our prowess. Our Nursing Act, with its General Nursing Council, the establishment in the near future of a uniform curriculum, and "one portal" examination. She assures her readers that this Council is fully alive to the need for

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