

## NURSING ECHOES.

The Marchioness of Carisbrook paid a visit to the British Home for Incurables at Streat-ham, last week, and opened a sale of patients' work, which we hope was a great success. The pictorial papers published a picture of a group of nurses watching from the window the arrival of the Marchioness, and never have we seen a group of more charming, smiling damsels in neater uniforms and prettier caps. It is impossible to believe that patients can continue incurable when attended by such sunny faced sirens.

According to the *Record*, it is proposed to erect a memorial to Nurse Edith Cavell by the completion of Christ Church, Brussels, and by placing a memorial tablet therein dedicating the work to her memory. Christ Church was the only English church in Belgium which remained open during the Great War, and the Chaplain, the Rev. H. S. T. Gahan, who is still in charge of the church and chaplaincy, was permitted to minister to Nurse Cavell in her cell in the prison of St. Gilles the night before her execution. The labours of the Rev. H. S. T. Gahan for the British and English-speaking community in Brussels during the whole period of the German occupation were beyond praise. The cost of the work is estimated at 152,000 francs.

We notice in the lay edited nursing press all sorts of nonsense is appearing concerning the value of State Registration. Considering its determined opposition to State Registration of Professional Nurses and the nasty cropper it sustained when this professional journal made Registration a live question, and took the leading journalistic part in carrying it through, we advise nurses not to be influenced by the dolorous prognostications of the old "anti-" journals. We cannot blame commercial papers for supporting those who supply the financial grist to their mills.

Primarily State Registration will deal with higher professional education and ethical standards, but what nurses will soon realise is its economic significance. State Registration will soon come to mean the hall-mark of the professional nurse, and the State Examination the Rubicon, which the semi-trained, the V.A.D.'s and other quick-change artistes will not be permitted to pass. The "Registered Nurse" of the future will have power to protect the sick from incompetent attendants by refusing to work on terms of equality with them, and—as permitted

by the Joint War Committee—under the direction of the untrained Commandant!

Moreover the public will soon come to demand a "Registered Nurse" when paying for skilled nursing, and Government Departments employing nurses, Institution Committees and Nursing Associations and Homes can simply be frozen out if they attempt to ignore the Nurses Registration Act. The Act is not compulsory, but the moral force behind it is irresistible. Moral: Be ready to register as soon as the Rules are in force and application forms available.

A correspondent sends a cutting from the *Church Family Newspaper*, of a letter headed "District Nursing as a Profession," in which the Hon. Secretary of the Hereford County Nursing Association invites "people perplexed by the problems of making both ends meet, or of starting their daughters in life," to consider the opportunities now given for entirely free training for district nurses. She continues: "Many county councils now make substantial grants for this purpose to suitable candidates aged 21 to 40 or so; and several county nursing associations are ready to pay the whole balance of the expense of the necessary year's training and C.M.B. examination now amounting to between £70 and £80. Posts are guaranteed afterwards at a commencing inclusive salary of about £100, rising to £120 and sometimes more. Many ladies have already adopted the profession; but there is still a very serious shortage of nurses, and an ever-increasing demand for educated, high-principled women to take up the work. To such it offers far-reaching opportunities for doing good, not only in ameliorating suffering, but in inculcating proper hygiene and saving infant life, and above all, in raising the entire moral tone of the community. It is indeed a life second to none in usefulness, and is congenial to those with a turn for nursing, and not so trying as working in a hospital."

Why are these workers, after a course of six months' midwifery and a little nursing experience, called district nurses? They have no right whatever to any such title, and we consider that candidates are being seriously misled by officials of County Nursing Associations in this connection. Now that the Nursing Acts have been passed, these district midwives should not be permitted any longer to be described as, and pose as, nurses. This class of worker are usually "certified midwives," and should be described by the legal title to which they have a right.

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