

and now that wages are so high, and service so costly, that patients shall pay according to their means is only right. But we were somewhat surprised to note that at the special Court of Governors of the Middlesex Hospital, which unanimously resolved to inaugurate the policy of contributions by patients, Mr. Webb Johnson suggested that the policy of taking contributions from patients should be extended; that all the nurses should reside outside, either in hostels or in their own homes; and that their rooms should be devoted to the reception of wealthy patients, who were at present practically debarred from accepting the benefits of the hospital, however largely they might have subscribed to it, the understanding being, of course, that the wealthy patients would pay fully for their treatment, and so augment the revenue of the hospital.

The Earl of Athlone, the Chairman of the Board, in subsequent conversation with an *Evening Standard* representative, said:—"Mr. Webb Johnson's proposal is a very interesting one."

We wonder what the subscribers who specially contributed a large sum of money to build the comfortable new Home for Nurses at the Middlesex will think of the proposal to eject them for the reception of wealthy patients? Moreover, we wonder what the nurses will do under such circumstances? We note constant advertisements in the press for probationers for this hospital. We should imagine that if Mr. Webb Johnson's proposal materialises, the shortage of probationers and nurses will be considerably accentuated.

We hope the Royal Chairman will consult the Nursing Staff before he permits this "interesting" suggestion to injure the Nursing School attached to the Middlesex Hospital.

Owing to lack of funds, the committee of the Birmingham District Nursing Society recently decided to close the Nurses' Home at No. 94, Moseley Road.

So many communications have been received from doctors, clergymen and others, pointing out the effect this action would probably have upon the health of the city, that the committee has decided to keep the home open till the end of the year, in the hope that increased subscriptions may then enable the full staff to be maintained.

A committee has been formed by the doctors and clergy for the purpose of permanently increasing the subscription list, and on that body

it is hoped that every district in the city will be represented.

Wealthy Birmingham should make a bumper response.

The eagerly expected volume, "A Short History of Nursing from the Earliest Times to the Present Day," by Miss Lavinia L. Dock, R.N., Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, in collaboration with Miss Isabel Maitland Stewart, A.M., R.N., Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing and Health, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, has just been published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C., price 17s. 6d. The volume has been prepared especially for the use of student nurses. It is in effect a condensation of the larger History of Nursing prepared by Miss Dock and Miss Nutting, but some recent developments are dealt with only in this volume. It is written with all the brilliancy which we expect from the authors. We hope to review it at length in an early issue.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A CONFERENCE ON BURNING QUESTIONS.

At the request of Members of the Corporation, the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association have decided to hold a Conference at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.1, on Friday, 3rd December, at 3 p.m. The subjects under discussion will be (1) The Unemployment Insurance Act; (2) the Hours of Employment Bill; and (3) the proposals of the Scotch and Irish Nursing Councils concerning the Rules for the State Registration of Nurses. It will be remembered that, among the suggestions of these Councils, are the following:—(a) The establishment of a Supplementary Register for Cottage Nurses; (b) Automatic Registration of Scottish and Irish Nurses on the English Register, irrespective of whether they do, or do not, hold the qualifications required of English Nurses by the English Council, and (c) that Scottish and Irish Nurses shall be Registered on the English Register for a fee of two shillings and sixpence, which carries with it the right to vote for the election of the Nurse Members on the Council, while English Nurses are required to pay a guinea for this great professional privilege.

We beg all our readers to use every effort to make the Conference widely known among Nurses. Everyone is cordially invited to be

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