

NURSING ECHOES.

Her Majesty the Queen has graciously consented to become Patroness of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics, which, it will be remembered, was formed in June last by the amalgamation, by Royal Charter, of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (which had its headquarters in London), with the Institute of Massage and Remedial Gymnastics (with headquarters in Manchester). The Chartered Society is desirous of giving publicity to this amalgamation, and to the special advantages for registration under the new body open to all masseurs and masseuses, and its Council looks forward to a successful future, with the power behind it that comes from union, in overcoming difficulties amongst the professional workers, and in bringing about a spirit of harmony and active interest in the welfare and advancement of the profession of massage generally. Trained nurses are keenly alive to the desirability of holding a certificate of massage, and will no doubt wish to obtain that of the Society which has the advantage of working under the powers conferred by a Royal Charter.

The announcement made by the Bradford Royal Infirmary, that a six months' course of training has been arranged in connection with its venereal department, for trained and certificated nurses, is one of which nurses should gladly avail themselves, for so far the opportunities of regular instruction in this branch of work have been very limited. At the same time, it is one with which all nurses should be acquainted. They may at any time meet with venereal disease as a complication of some other illness, they may be called upon to nurse patients suffering from venereal disease or one of its complications; the knowledge they should possess in such a case should be adequate, and they should by training have become skilled in the performance of the duties they have to carry out. We are aware that this branch of work is not popular with nurses, firstly, no doubt, because of their lack of the special training necessary, secondly because they usually associate these diseases with wrong doing on the part of the patient. That is a mistake. The wise nurse limits her outlook to the prevention and cure of disease, and the skilled relief of suffering; she does not hold office as a judge of the causes whereby disease has been contracted. Many of those, moreover who have exposed themselves wilfully to infection are sincerely to be pitied for the

terrible penalty they have to pay as the result of transgression.

And what about those who contract these diseases innocently? The wife with ruined health, the baby in danger of blindness, the little children who will never grow straight and strong? Surely every nurse worthy of her calling will work to equip herself by every means at her disposal to render the most effective help to these tragic sufferers. We rejoice to know that the Royal Infirmary, Bradford, offers nurses the means to do so, and pays them a salary at the rate of £45 per annum meanwhile. A certificate is granted at the successful conclusion of the course, of which full particulars may be obtained from the Matron. We can imagine no more useful service to the community than to assist in the reduction, and we may hope the eventual eradication, of venereal disease.

The *Glasgow Evening News* says in reference to the Nation's Fund for Nurses, denounced at the recent Professional Union of Trained Nurses meeting;—"It has long been an open secret that this fund is not popular with the best class of women, who are deeply ashamed that subscription sheets have been sent out on their behalf to regiments and ships."

Discussing the relation of the Library to the Hospital, Miss Julia E. Elliott says:—"The library is the literary research laboratory of the hospital."

Writing on the "Progress of Nursing Education during 1919" in the *Modern Hospital*, Miss Isabel Stewart, Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing and Health, Teachers' College, New York, states that:—"The cause of the acute shortage of student nurses in the rank and file of the nursing schools ante-dates the war. The root of the trouble is largely economic. The remedy lies in better provision for the nursing service in hospitals, in order to enable them to provide conditions which will attract young women in larger numbers. These conditions are: Shorter hours of duty; less housework (at least after the elementary period); better housing conditions; improved teaching personnel, equipment and methods; wholesome recreation and social life; the elimination of the old rigid system of military discipline, and a greater measure of self-government."

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