

### NURSING ECHOES.

Her Royal Highness Princess Arthur of Connaught, has consented to become Patroness of the South African Trained Nurses' Association, and her portrait in uniform appears in the *South African Nursing Record*. Princess Arthur worked as a Probationary Nurse at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, for a term of three years. In sending her portrait to the S.A.N.R. Her Royal Highness asks the editor to convey her deep interest and sympathy in the work of all those connected with the nursing community in South Africa. The nursing community are looking forward to meeting their Royal and Professional Patroness at an early date.

We are glad to note that the *South African Nursing Record* quotes the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING's hint *re* affiliation with the International Council of Nurses, and adds: "This matter might well be brought forward at the next annual meeting of the Trained Nurses' Association and the advice of your legal advisers sought before that time, so as to have a definite proposal before the meeting. It would be splendid if we could seek affiliation in 1922 as well." The "as well" alludes to the Australian Federal Council of Nurses preparing to affiliate. The adhesion of the nurses of these truly Imperial Dominions would add enormously to the power and prestige of the International Council of Nurses. Indeed, we can never be truly representative without them.

We have had several inquiries concerning the Unemployment Insurance Act, which came into force last November. Until the Minister of Labour decides whether or no nurses may be excepted, every nurse who is not earning at the rate of £250 a year—salary and emoluments together—is included in it, so that very few are exempted; amongst these are Private Nurses earning from £3 3s. and upwards a week, and a few higher grade hospital officials and Public Health and institution nurses. It is a very unfair tax on Nurses and their employers, as very few are unemployed, either in hospitals or elsewhere.

At the annual meeting of the Leeds Trained Nursing Institution, which employs both private and district nurses, it was reported that for some time the committee had given careful consideration to the pension fund, increasing the security for the payment of pensions and giving the nurses a share in its administration.

The pension fund has been converted into a trust fund, the investments of which cannot be used for any other purpose than the payment of pensions to nurses.

The work of the district nursing branch of the institution continued to be appreciated, and 71,815 visits had been paid during the year to the 3,126 cases attended. The retirement, through ill-health, of Miss Barnes, who for nearly twenty years was superintendent of two homes, was regretted.

The Devonport Board of Guardians is of opinion that the Association of Poor Law Guardians should request the Minister of Health to submit to the Association a draft of the final proposals of the scheme of the General Nursing Council, for the training of nurses so far as it is likely to affect Poor Law Infirmaries, for the observations of the Association.

The General Nursing Council, of its own initiative, is forwarding its draft educational scheme to the authorities of hospitals and Poor Law Infirmaries, with a covering letter inviting expressions of opinion upon it. Moreover, an informal Conference is being convened by the Council to discuss with the representatives of all branches of the nursing profession the Schedule which has been submitted to the heads of the training schools, and also in connection with reciprocal curricula.

We have received letters from district nurses pointing out that the County Nursing Associations are still engaging young women to train as midwifery village nurses on long contracts. It is thought that these contracts will discriminate very unfairly against these women, as they will not be qualified for Registration by the General Nursing Council.

We are quite of opinion that the provisions of the Nursing Acts should be explained to such trainees. Presumably they will be qualified for registration by the Central Midwives' Board and become certified midwives, and will have to work under their own professional title.

The story of a thief's daring attempt to escape when found in the nurses' quarters of St. Thomas's Hospital, Westminster, was told at the London Sessions last week, when Frederick Martin, 52, a painter, was sent to prison for 18 months for breaking into the hospital in September last and stealing a quantity of jewellery, the property of a probationer nurse. When discovered by a porter the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)