

NURSING ECHOES.

Our account of the interesting dinner and annual meeting of the Guy's Hospital Nurses' League, held on April 29th, is unavoidably held over till next week, as so much of our space is devoted to the Nursing Conference held under the auspices of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales on the previous day.

We have received from Miss C. M. Adams, Secretary of the Overseas Nursing Association, a list of the new appointments made by the Committee of the Association since October last. It includes eleven nurses appointed to private posts, seven to hospitals not under Government, and thirty-four to Government hospitals, in our Overseas Dominions. All these ladies hold good certificates; one has the Military Medal, three the Royal Red Cross, 1st class, and one the R.R.C., 2nd class.

At a meeting of the Executive of the Central Council for District Nursing on April 18th, the problem of provision of adequate district nursing for insured persons was very fully considered. The merits and demerits of alternative methods of contribution by Approved Societies under the powers they have by Section 21 of the Insurance Act, or out of surplus funds by scheme were discussed. The method of contribution from the Societies by way of a subvention based on the number of members in the Society appeared to be preferred to any scheme for requiring payment either by the member or through the Society in respect of the number of visits paid.

It was finally resolved "That a letter be sent to the Approved Societies having members in London, informing them that the Central Council for District Nursing in London is in a position to arrange for an adequate district nursing service for all insured persons resident in London, and inviting them to make a contribution from their funds to the Central Council."

The Committee of the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society have been informed by the Ministry of Health that after valuation the Society has a surplus to expend on extra benefits, and has notified the Ministry that it desires to distribute the money at its disposal by raising the sick and disablement benefits to the maximum, making the sick benefit 14s. 6d. a week, and the disablement benefit 8s. 9d., for those nurses entitled to it.

At the annual distribution of prizes to the probationer nurses at Highgate Infirmary on April 11th, Sir George H. Makins, G.C.M.G., gave an admirable address, emphasising the necessity of discipline, knowledge and economy, and spoke from ripe experience of a nurse's work and life and her relations with medical work. It was all the more to be deplored that he must needs offer advice concerning nursing organisation, and prove from his statements that he had not yet studied the ethics of trade unionism, and recommend, as a substitute for self-government, association with the College of Nursing, Ltd., which is largely controlled by the laity. We always want to ask such advisers why they do not recognise the right of the laity to help govern the medical profession as members of their Colleges, General Medical Council and Medical Associations. A principle they will not tolerate for themselves—and very wisely—medical men have no right to advise the nursing profession to accept. We are now quite logical enough to realise such inconsistency.

Princess Mary has been approached to open the Scenic Fair to be held at Birmingham in aid of the Three Counties Centre of the College of Nursing, Ltd., but has been unable to accept the invitation. Her Royal Highness hopes to go to Birmingham between the 2nd and 11th of June and will visit the Fair, with the proceeds of which it is hoped to establish in the centre of the city a Club with a lecture room, and scholarships open to all nurses.

The Princess will have presented to her those matrons of hospitals in Birmingham and the three counties who are helping in the work, and will also receive purses, visit the stalls, and take tea at the Fair, which will be held in Bingley Hall for nine days.

It is proposed to start a Club for nurses at Plymouth. It is advanced that there are some 400 nurses in the town and neighbourhood, and for the lack of a centre when off duty, "many roam aimlessly about the streets or stay in the hospital atmosphere, from which, quite naturally, they would prefer to be free when off duty." The laudable aim of the committee which has been set up is to establish a modest club of two or three rooms at present, and ultimately to aim at a residential club which shall be open to all nurses, whether in public or private institutions, and where they may find congenial

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