

NURSING ECHOES.

Mr. Herbert J. Paterson has done well to remind the Government in the *Times* how unjust it is that nurses who served their country in home service during the war should be denied the General Service Medal. "In equity," he writes, "the restriction of the General Service Medal to those who 'crossed the seas' is indefensible, more especially as service in a hospital ship was not considered a qualifying condition. . . . Nurses are smarting under the injustice and indignity of being placed under the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act. Is it too much to hope that the Government will reconsider their decision and not inflict another injustice on the profession by depriving them of a recognition which appears in common justice to be their due?"

A Ball Masqué is to be held on Alexandra Day at Lansdowne House, in aid of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, which is very deeply in debt, owing to necessary increased expenditure on salaries and upkeep.

Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, President of the Scottish Branch Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, has endorsed the appeal being issued in support of the good work. The need is pressing and urgent, as for some years the annual income has fallen £5,000 short of the expenditure.

The following resolution was passed at the annual meeting of the South Wales Nursing Association:—

"That in view of the action now being taken by County Councils with regard to district nursing, the existence of the South Wales Nursing Association as an organiser of district nursing, apart from its work in procuring and training candidates for nursing will probably become unnecessary before long, and County Sub-Committees are advised to develop their policy accordingly.

We hope the training given will qualify candidates for the State Examination of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

We wonder if it would not be advisable for the General Nursing Council to issue a statement to County Nursing Associations. These bodies are in many instances urging young women to contract for a little training and three

years' service—which will not qualify them to become "registered nurses." This seems very unfair. The county ladies running these Associations should acquaint themselves with the provisions of the Nurses' Registration Acts. The day has gone by when the laity can define professional standards (often very unfair to the workers), and govern professional nurses. Many girls are being side-tracked professionally by these County Nursing Associations, unless they intend to practice midwifery only—and cease to assume the title of nurse.

We hope it is not true that the nursing at the new hospital for functional nervous disorders at Swaylands, towards the foundation and endowment of which Sir Ernest Cassel has given £225,000, is to be largely done by probationers. This type of work needs very highly skilled nursing by women of very special temperament if the patients are to be really benefitted. Raw probationers, however well intentioned, cannot possibly possess the knowledge and experience required.

Mr. Laurence Burke, of Main Street, Castle-rea, co. Roscommon, Ireland, writes to the *Poor Law Officers' Journal*, advocating the right of male nurses to be placed on the General Register. The three Acts specially provide for Supplementary Male Registers, and this is just, as men are not trained in the nursing of women and children, including gynaecology and maternity nursing, and are not employed to nurse them. They cannot, therefore, rank as "general" nurses.

The annual meeting of the Committee of the Indian Nurses' Hostel Fund (Lady Rogers' Hostel for Indian Nurses), held recently at 2, Short Street, Calcutta, under the presidency of Major-General Robinson, indicated both the usefulness of the Hostel and the need for increased support. There has been a steady demand for the services of the nurses, and though the staff at present numbers only six, for a considerable portion of 1920 there have been ten to twelve nurses on the night staff of the Hostel, and the nurses have attended 178 cases and earned over 11,000 rupees. The ultimate aim of the committee is the establishment of a Hostel in the northern part of the town on a larger scale, but this cannot be attempted until a substantial reserve fund has been accumulated, and the Committee confidently appeal to the Indian community to assist in this direction.

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