

### NURSING ECHOES.

By invitation of the Matron (Miss S. A. Villiers) Miss F. Waters, in charge of the group of International Nurse Students now taking the Public Health Course at King's College for Women, N.W., and ten of the students representing Greece, Roumania, Belgium, Poland, Venezuela, Sweden, Czecho-Slovakia, Italy, Serbia and France, last Saturday visited the South-Western Hospital, Stockwell. They were much impressed with the beautiful cleanliness of the wards, and interested in the glass cubicles and in the cases, especially in two cases of sleeping sickness, both of which are now recovering.

The Sister explained that when these patients are admitted lumbar-puncture is done, as there is some similarity between them and cases of cerebro-spinal-meningitis. If this is excluded, and a diagnosis of sleeping sickness made, the treatment consists chiefly of nursing and feeding. Unless the illness is very acute, sleeping-sickness patients will do what they are told; for instance, if told to swallow they swallow, though they may go to sleep between each mouthful; if told to raise a hand they do so; but they seem to have no power of initiative, and never attempt to move a hand themselves.

It was interesting to learn from Miss Villiers that enteric fever appears to be decreasing, which she attributes to the decrease in the slums, and consequently the healthier conditions of life.

Tea was served in the nurses' sitting-room, at little tables, decorated with lovely flowers, and the Sisters dispensed tea, and a profusion of dainty cakes, sandwiches, and other good things. What mattered the fog and the damp outside, when inside there was a glowing fire, the best of good fellowship, and charming hostesses?

The Islington Board of Guardians, on Saturday last, had before them the copy of a report by Miss Wamsley, an Inspector under the Ministry of Health, made after her recent visit to the Board's Infirmary, together with a request that the Minister of Health might be furnished with the observations of the Guardians upon it.

Miss Wamsley reported that the nursing in some of the wards was unsatisfactory, and supported the idea "that many of the nurses now think of little else but off duty time, and money, of which there is no lack . . . They come on duty tired and jaded, after late hours and constant excitement. . . . Many nurses seem to have no regard for the inconvenience and

extra work caused when they fail to return to work at the appointed time."

The Chairman of the Infirmary Committee informed the Board that it had no knowledge of the unsatisfactory nursing arrangements to which Miss Wamsley had drawn attention, and the Report was referred to that Committee to investigate, and report upon to the Board.

Miss Wamsley is to be congratulated upon her courageous Report. In the past nurses have often been overworked and underpaid, but longer hours off duty fail in their intention if they are not spent in a way which will result in greater fitness for work. The nurse really imbued with a high sense of her duty to suffering humanity, not to mention of honourable dealing with her employers, in giving a fair day's work for a fair day's wage, will be careful to indulge only in such recreation as results in mental and bodily refreshment.

From all over the country comes an appeal to our healthy young womanhood to choose Nursing as their career. Those who enter now will have far finer prospects, as the profession is being organised through the Nursing Acts, and the "Registered Nurse" of the future will stand on firm ground, and we hope will not only be recognised as a member of a highly skilled profession (which she is) but receive emoluments as such. Unless trained nurses are paid at a rate at which they can save for old age the prospect is not very pleasing.

Complimentary vouchers are being sent by the Secretary of the Moon's Club (a dancing centre) inviting Matrons to encourage their nurses to join as student members, 10s. subscription and 2s. 6d. floor fee. To quote the communication: "It is a club where a man may safely take his wife or sister, and where whole families frequently foregather for an afternoon or evening's amusement."

As it sounded so thoroughly respectable, a Matron handed the vouchers to one of her nurses.

"Thanks, Matron," was the reply, "but I prefer not to kick up my heels *en famille*."

Lambeth Health Committee recommends that only single or widowed women shall in future be appointed as health visitors.

Through their General Inspectors, the Ministry of Health have issued a communication stating that the Ministries of Health and Labour have been in communication with regard to the effect of the Unemployment Insur-

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